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Colonies

General 11

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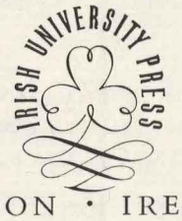
British Parliamentary Papers

ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONIES

1864-66

Colonies General

11



SHANNON · IRELAND

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Contents

IUP Page Number

For ease of reference IUP editors have assigned a continuous pagination which appears on the top outer margin of each page.

State of the Colonies
Annual Reports for the Year 1862 Part I
1864 [3304] Vol XL 9

State of the Colonies
Annual Reports for the Year 1862 Part II
1864 [3304–I] Vol XL 123

State of the Colonies
Annual Reports for the Year 1863 Part I
1865 [3423] Vol XXXVII 317

State of the Colonies
Annual Reports for the Year 1863 Part II
1865 [3423–I] Vol XXXVII 447

State of the Colonies
Annual Reports for the Year 1864 Part I
1866 [3719] Vol XLIX 601

State of the Colonies
Annual Reports for the Year 1864 Part II
1866 [3719–I] Vol XLIX 749

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THE

REPORTS

Made for the Year 1862 *to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies; in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1862.

PART I. WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
1864.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1864.

9126.

SCHEDULE.

No. in Series.	Colony.	Page.
1	JAMAICA	4
2	BRITISH HONDURAS (*Not received*)	11
3	BAHAMAS	11
4	TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS	15
5	TRINIDAD	23
6	BRITISH GUIANA	37
7	BARBADOS	42
8	GRENADA	51
9	TOBAGO	55
10	ST. VINCENT	63
11	ST. LUCIA	64
12	ANTIGUA	76
13	MONTSERRAT	81
14	ST. CHRISTOPHER AND ANGUILLA	86
15	NEVIS	90
16	VIRGIN ISLANDS	92
17	DOMINICA	96
18	MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES	102

PART I.

WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

JAMAICA.

No. 1.

JAMAICA.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor EYRE to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 183.) King's House, Jamaica,
MY LORD DUKE, July 27, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for Jamaica for the year 1862, upon which I beg to offer the following remarks :—

2. A considerable delay has taken place in getting ready the Blue Book,—first, from the difficulty in collecting the subordinate returns from distant parts of the island or from persons over whom the Government can exercise no control in compelling expedition; and, secondly, from the book being, for the first time, got up in a printed form, instead of being written.

The printing has been entirely done at the Penitentiary, at a press only recently imported, and where all the workmen had to be taught their trade.

3. Under these circumstances, I trust your Grace will both consider the work as not otherwise than creditably got up, and be pleased to extend your indulgence to any imperfections in this the first appearance of the Blue Book of Jamaica in a new form.

4. The Blue Book has been compiled as in former years, but I am quite aware that there are many defects in it which it will require time and much trouble to amend. Thus, some of the returns are made up for the year ending 30th September, whilst others are made up for the year ending 31st December. Again, British goods imported into the colony at ad valorem duties, and goods which are called unenumerated, are altogether unclassified or unspecified, though amounting to almost half a million, or nearly one half of the whole imports. So, also, in making financial comparisons, I find that the form in which the returns were made out in 1861 differs materially from that adopted in 1862. Some of the returns (as that of Public Works, for instance,) are so made out as to convey no information whatever; I fear there are also some inaccuracies.

5. Still I have thought it better to send on the book with all its imperfections rather than delay it and attempt to amend what I am afraid we have no elements for putting right, or which could only be corrected at an expenditure of time, trouble, and expense out of all proportion to the object to be obtained.

6. Another year I hope the volume will be made more accurate, that it will be brought out in a still more satisfactory manner, and at a much earlier period of the year.

6. *Revenue.*

Total revenue, 1861 - - -	£275,027 2 7
Total revenue, 1862 - - -	£291,087 19 9
Increase - -	£16,060 17 2

The revenue of 1862 has been collected under the same acts which were in force in 1861, excepting the additional duties on Imports, but which only came into operation on the 31st January 1862.

7. The amount realized has exceeded that received in 1861 by upwards of 16,060*l.* Omitting shillings and pence there has been

		£
an increase in the receipts from	the Customs Tonnage Acts of - - -	1,400
,,	Import Duties Acts - - -	20,130
,,	Rum Duties Acts - - -	2,654
,,	Stamp Duty Act - - -	1,584
,,	Tonnage Dues for Transient Poor -	229
,,	Penitentiary Receipts - - -	1,110
,,	Post Office - - - -	240
,,	Taxes on Breeding Stock, Horses, &c. -	2,495
		£29,842

On the other hand, there has been a decrease in receipts from	£
Export Duties Acts - - -	1,959
Loan Act, 21 & 22 Vict. - -	5,850
Exchequer Bills - - -	6,236
	£14,045

8. The difference between these two sums gives nearly (not taking into account minor items) the difference of receipts in 1862 over 1861. It is especially gratifying to find that the increased receipts for labour of the prisoners in the Penitentiary has been so considerable, and that the Post Office returns have also experienced an augmentation. Indeed, the latter institution is entirely self-supporting.

9. *Expenditure.*

Total expenditure, 1861	£274,564	19	5
Total expenditure, 1862	£292,402	8	0
Increase	£ 17,837	8	7

		£
There has been an increased expenditure in collecting the Revenue, of		1,074
,, under the Police Acts		1,451
,, on account of Printing		251
,, ,, Steam Communication with America		1,200
,, ,, Interests on Exchequer Bills, Charities, &c.		3,894
,, ,, Colonial Military		2,037
,, ,, Prisons		1,227
,, ,, Judges Salaries		770
,, ,, Society of Arts		400
,, ,, former Grants		999
,, ,, Education		612
There has also been an increased expenditure on account of services not included in 1861, namely,		
Set apart for a Fund for colonizing Immigrants		2,881
Perpetual Annuity Fund, Expenses of Census and Adjutant General of Militia		9,137
Loan from Revenue for main Road purposes		8,600
		£34,533

Against this augmented expenditure there has been	£
a decreased expenditure on account of Expenses of Crown Witnesses, of	604
,, ,, the Penitentiary	715
,, under 18 Victoria, cap. 60.	1,475
,, on account of Parochial arrears	12,580
,, ,, Parochial contingencies	1,468
	£16,842

10. The difference between these two sums gives nearly (not taking into account minor items) the difference of expenditure in 1862 over that of 1861. Most of the increased outlay has been for services tending to promote the security, prosperity, or social interests of the colony.

Public Debt.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
11. Total Public Debt, 1861	761,863	0	5
Total Public Debt, 1862	766,181	19	8
Increase in 1862	£4,318	19	3

The increase was made up of the following amounts:—	£	*s.*	*d.*
Curates Fund	1,316	4	3
Rectors Fund	315	1	0
Loan, 21 & 22 Vict.	450	0	0
Main Road New Loan	18,000	0	0
	£20,081	5	3

From this increase must be deducted the under-mentioned sums paid off on account of loans:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Loan, 18 Vict. cap. 60	1,550	0	0
,, 17 Vict. cap. 29	10,000	0	0
,, 15 ~~Vict.~~ cap. 39	2,437	6	0
,, 15 & 16 Vict.	1,775	0	0
	£15,762	6	0

Military Expenditure—Militia.

12. In 1861 the Colony expended on account of Colonial Defences - - - - - - £ 240 2 10
In 1862 - - - - - - 3,338 15 1

Being an increase of - - - £3,098 12 3

Chiefly incurred in arming and drilling volunteer corps, of which there were, in 1861, 32 officers, 152 privates; in 1862, 70 officers, 577 privates, and 291 horses. Showing that great interest is taken in this service by the colonists themselves, and that very considerable progress was made during the year.

Public Works.

13. The following are the chief Public Works which have been going on, with the amounts expended upon each during the year.

	£	s.	d.
New Lunatic Asylum - - - -	2,300	0	0
General Penitentiary, Kingston - - -	100	0	0
Public Hospital - - - - -	13	12	0
Public Buildings in Spanish Town - -	395	7	1
Main Roads - - - - -	30,000	0	0
Rio Minho Bridge - - - -	1,029	8	6
Rio Pedro Bridge - - - -	177	10	0
Holland Canal Bridge - - - -	100	0	0
	£34,115	17	7

Political Franchise.

14. Remains the same as in the previous year.

Legislation.

15. Forty-seven Acts have been passed during the year.

Amongst the most important are—

Acts for raising supplies and providing for the ordinary requirements of the public service.

An Act for governing and regulating the new lunatic asylum.

Acts to provide for the repairing of churches, chapels, rectories, school-houses, court-houses, police stations, &c. &c.

An Act to provide for the payment of salaries, wages, or other sums to certain persons in case of the insolvency of their employers.

An Act for extending the line of steam communication between Jamaica and New York.

An Act in aid of the volunteer militia act.

An Act to facilitate the formation of tramroads.

An Act for governing and regulating the public hospital.

An Act to provide for the establishment of a lepers' home.

An Act to provide for the management of the post office.

Population.

16. By the last census taken in 1861 there were—

Whites - Males - - -	7,295	
,, - Females - - - -	6,521	
Browns - Males - - - -	38,223	
,, - Females - - -	42,842	
Blacks - Males - - - -	167,277	
,, - Females - - -	179,090	
Total - - -	441,248	

Immigration.

17. Number of Indian immigrants introduced during the year - - 2,000
Number of liberated Africans - - - - - 608

Total immigration during the year - - - 2,608

18.—*Religious Provision.*

Number of Churches, Chapels, or Stations.	Number of Ministers.	Number of Persons the Buildings will accommodate.	Number of Persons who attend.	Denominations.
90	90	48,974	37,300	Church of England.
78	28	35,550	31,610	Wesleyan Missions.
17	6	3,060	2,360	United Methodist Free Church Missions.
57	28	33,846	26,126	Jamaica Baptist Union.
10	3	3,140	1,750	Jamaica Wesleyan Methodist Association.
17	8	7,230	6,290	London Missionary Society.
13	14	10,300	9,650	Moravian Mission.
7	5	3,270	1,890	Roman Catholic.
1	1	400	100	English and German Jewish Synagogue.
29	26	12,575	9,852	United Presbyterian Mission.
5	5	1,300	1,050	American Mission.
324	214	159,545	127,978	

19.—*Schools.*

Number of Scholars.	Amount received from Government.	Amount received from other sources.	Denominations.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
8,113	1,130 10 0	1,708 16 10½	Established Church.
269	60 0 0	—	Roman Catholic.
1,214	—	625 6 4	London Missionary Society.
2,321	250 0 0	1,713 0 0	Wesleyan Methodist Mission.
557	80 0 0	80 0 0	United Methodist Free Church.
125	12 10 0	20 16 0	Jamaica Wesleyan Methodist Association.
3,456	—	—	Jamaica Baptist Union.
317	110 0 0	210 0 0	American Mission.
3,152	29 0 0	1,492 19 11½	United Presbyterian.
29	50 0 0	120 0 0	Hebrew.
3,762	300 0 0	560 0 0	Moravian Mission.
23,315	2,022 0 0	6,530 0 0	

Endowed Schools.

Number of Scholars.	Amount received from Government.	Amount received from other sources.	——
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
30	996 0 0	—	Jamaica Free School, St. Ann's.
19	—	90 0 0	Beckford's Free School, St. Catherine.
749	—	—	Woolmer's Free School, Kingston.
298	48 0 0	2,132 12 10	Mico Institute, Kingston.
325	—	219 10 4	Manchester Free School.
406	—	350 0 0	Vere Free School.
572	—	257 0 0	Munro and Dickinson's, St. Elizabeth.
98	—	270 0 0	Rusea's Free School, Hanover.
220	230 0 0	—	St. James' Free School.
203	—	471 3 3	Manning's Free School, Westmoreland.
72	—	108 0 0	Smith's Charity, St. Catherine.
2,992	1,274 0 0	3,898 6 5	

GENERAL TOTAL OF ALL SCHOOLS RETURNED.

Number of Scholars - - - - -	26,307
Amount received from the Government - - -	£3,296 0 0
Amount received from other sources - - -	£10,429 5 7

At many of the schools fees are also received from the children, and in others, funds are provided by the vestries or by the clergy, which do not appear in these returns. Some of the returns, as those for the Jamaica Baptist Union and Woolmer's Free School, Kingston, do not show the sources of support. There are also many private schools and Sunday schools receiving no aid from Government, of which no return has been received.

An inspector of schools has lately been appointed, and a system of competitive examination of schoolmasters has been established, from both of which it is hoped considerable advantage will result.

Imports.

	£
20. Total imports 1861	1,089,482
Total imports 1862	1,141,983
Increase	52,501

The principal items in which increase has taken place, are—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Bread	1,270	5	7
Butter	7,872	18	8
Candles	3,705	14	1
Cornmeal	16,218	7	3
Flour	40,163	15	7
Hardware	1,858	13	7
Oil vegetable	1,539	7	7
Rice	14,575	9	0
Shooks	6,005	16	8
Brandy	2,768	10	10
Wool (Cotton)	9,837	11	3
British goods upon which ad valorem duties are charged	14,464	3	10

On the other hand, there has been a decreased importation of—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Ale and Beer	15,545	4	8
Fish	5,415	6	9
Goods unenumerated	2,188	16	6
Lard	2,327	3	7
Machinery, Mills and Steam Engines	11,389	10	4
Pork, wet salted	12,220	17	2
Soap	4,424	12	10
Gin	1,185	9	7
Tobacco (Manufactured)	3,335	10	2
Wheat	1,394	8	3
Wine	7,065	14	11
Cypress Shingles	1,582	3	0
Pitch Pine Lumber	3,526	3	6
Wood Staves and Heading	4,837	2	10
White Pine Lumber	6,403	1	7

showing a considerable increase in the importation for home consumption of many articles of food, and of British goods upon which ad valorem duties are charged, and a great falling off in ale, wines, soap, and machinery, and in goods usually imported from America, as fish, lard, pork, tobacco, and building materials, &c. &c.

Exports.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
21. Total exports 1861	1,214,614	15	4
Total exports 1862	1,113,441	10	3
Decrease	101,173	5	1

The principal items in which a decreased exportation has taken place are—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Coffee	242,96	18	8
Copper (old)	1,151	6	10
Cotton goods of all kinds	2,257	19	6
Flour Wheat	1,695	9	0
Fish of all kinds	866	8	6
Merchandize, unenumerated	6,880	19	2
Pimento	14,491	14	10
Rum	73,253	7	0
Sugar	31,610	15	2
Wood (Fustic)	717	8	6

On the other hand there has been an increased exportation of—

	£	s.	d.
Bees wax	723	12	1
Copper Ore	229	14	0
Drugs	1,212	3	5
Ginger	5,933	13	7
Honey	548	11	5
Iron Nails	1,841	14	0
Succades	1,230	12	10
Wood (Ebony)	1,140	10	0
Wood (Logwood)	31,744	19	0
Wool, Cotton (of which only 86*l.* 6*s.* was produce of the Colony)	12,926	4	2

showing a very serious falling off in the more important staple products of the country, sugar, rum, pimento, and coffee, but a considerable increase in the exportation of its minor productions, honey, bees' wax, ginger, succades, and woods.

22. *Shipping.*

NUMBER and Tonnage of Vessels entered at Ports in Jamaica in 1861 and 1862.

YEAR.	WITH CARGOES.		IN BALLAST.		TOTAL.	
	Number of Vessels.	Number of Tons.	Number of Vessels.	Number of Tons.	Number of Vessels.	Number of Tons.
1861	433	90,327	56	10,710	489	101,037
1861	472	102,850	34	9,792	506	112,642
	39	12,523	22	918	17	11,605

23. *Gaols and Prisons.*

YEAR.	Number of Prisoners committed in the Year.		Number of Prisoners convicted before.			Punishments for Offences committed within the Prison.				Cases of Sickness.		Deaths.	
	White.	Black or Coloured.	Once.	Twice.	Three or more Times.	Whipping.	Irons.	Solitary Confinement.	Other Punishments.	Greatest Number Sick at any One Time.	Total Number Sick during the Year.	White.	Black or Coloured.
1861	76	2,030	1,130	271	254	11	29	380	475	84	1,056	0	4
1862	30	3,574	1,791	493	260	6	28	129	638	147	1,616	1	25
	46	1,544	661	222	6	5	1	251	163	63	560	1	21

NUMBER of Prisoners in Confinement during the Year.

YEAR.	Felons.		Thefts.		Assaults.		Other Offences.		Debtors.	Greatest Number in Confinement at any one Time during the Year.	Total Number in Confinement on 31st December 1862.
	Tried.	Untried.	Tried.	Untried.	Tried.	Untried.	Tried.	Untried.			
1861	182	256	540	157	153	15	258	71	118	764	555
1862	187	243	652	243	151	28	302	114	226	1,068	776
	5	13	112	86	2	13	44	43	108	304	221

JAMAICA.

In this last table it was intended to show the number of prisoners in gaol (whether tried or untried) for felonies, thefts, assaults, other offences, and debt, on the 31st December of each year, but a mistake has been made in the Returns furnished by the Prison Department for the years 1861 and 1862, which it is impossible to rectify now, and under which the total aggregate number of prisoners in gaol during the whole year for the offences specified has been inserted instead of the number under confinement on a particular day.

Charitable Institutions.

24. The principal charitable institutions in Kingston, are an hospital and a lunatic asylum supported by Government, some private almshouses, a reformatory for boys, a reformatory for girls, and a lying-in institution, all of which receive Government assistance. There are various other hospitals and alms-houses of a parochial character in different parts of the island, and very large sums are also expended, annually, in each parish throughout the entire colony in relieving the indigent or sick.

In the Kingston hospital the number of patients admitted in 1861 was - - 1,307
In 1862 - - - - - - - - - 1,547

Two hundred beds have occasionally been made up, but the accommodation is only sufficient for one hundred and eighty, without crowding.

In the lunatic asylum the number of lunatics admitted in 1861 was - - 123
In 1862 - - - - - - - - - 98
The number of inmates on the 31st December 1861 was - - - 140
On the 31st December 1862 - - - - - 149

25. Taking it as a whole the year 1862 has been one of great depression. The continuance of the civil war in America and the interruption to trade which it has occasioned, the occurrence of three fires in Kingston, by which a very large amount of property was destroyed, and the long continuance of low prices for the chief staple products of the island, have all told heavily upon the interests of the colony, and there is every reason to fear that much additional land will be thrown out of sugar cultivation after the existing crops are reaped. Already immigation, except as regards captured Africans from St. Helena, has wholly ceased.

26. On the other hand the high prices realized for coffee for some time past have stimulated the cultivation of that article, chiefly amongst the peasantry and small proprietors, who are, many of them, very well to do in the world. During the first six months of 1863 the export of coffee has nearly doubled the exportation during the same six months of 1862.

27. Some experiments are being made in cotton cultivation, and about ten thousand pounds more has been exported in the first half of 1863 than in the same period of 1862, but the undertakings are yet too recent to admit of any correct opinion being formed as to how far they will pay as a commercial speculation. The difficulties to contend against are uncertainty as to seasons and an inability to procure the requisite labour at a moderate cost and at the moment it is required. This latter indeed constitutes the great obstacle to all undertakings requiring the prompt application of a sufficiency of labour at particular stages of progress. It is not that there is not a considerable amount of labour in the colony, but that it is impossible to command it at the time it is wanted, unless by paying wages so far beyond the ordinary rates as to make the undertakings unremunerative.

28. Some progress has been made during the year with Cinchona cultivation; about one hundred and forty-five trees of the more valuable varieties, chiefly grown from seed, are now planted out, and are reported to be doing exceedingly well; from these the number of plants may soon be largely increased by cuttings and suckers.

29. The sanatory state of the colony has been very good, and the island has been altogether free from epidemics. In the lowlands the weather is frequently very oppressive, the thermometer in the shade often ranging between eighty and ninety degrees; but Jamaica possesses an advantage which none of the other West India colonies enjoy, that of an easily accessible mountain district at an elevation of four thousand feet above the seashore, where the air is always cool and refreshing, often quite cold and offering a climate which for pleasantness and healthiness cannot, I believe, be surpassed by any in the world.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. EYRE.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(*Not received.*)

BAHAMAS.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor BAYLEY, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 110.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, Nassau, October 15, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book for 1862, the delay in furnishing which I have already explained in my Despatch No. 97, of the 18th September.

Imports and Exports.

A perusal of its contents will show your Grace a large increase over the year 1861 in exports and imports. And here I have to regret and correct a partial error which I find in the Blue Book Report for 1861, which gives the exports of 1860 and 1861 at 60,839*l.* and 64,537*l.* respectively. This Return, prepared by the late Receiver General and Treasurer, accurately represents the exports of native produce. But it does not represent the amount of wrecked and other goods re-exported which is always the most considerable item of Bahamian exports. The total amount should have been 141,896*l.* and 195,584*l.* for 1860 and 1861 respectively. This increase (of 1862) is attributable to the important part which this colony—or more correctly speaking, the harbour of Nassau—has played as an entrepôt of English goods destined for the ports of the Confederate States. The contiguity of Nassau to Charleston and Wilmington has made it a kind of outport for Liverpool, Cardiff, and Glasgow. And a commerce with the Southern belligerents which could not have been carried on at all directly between European and American ports has been prosecuted with comparative safety and profit through the supplementary aid of this small, and, till recently, obscure harbour. I say comparative safety and profit. For I find that of 17 steamers and 65 sailing vessels which attempted to run the blockade during the last six months of the year, 8 of the former and 33 of the latter were captured; still leaving considerable profits to the speculators. This blockade running has raised the value of imports from 274,581*l.* in 1861, to 1,250,322*l.* in 1862; and the value of exports from 195,584*l.* in 1861, to 1,007,755*l.* in 1862. The articles imported from, and exported to the Southern States of America, in which the most striking augmentation is perceptible, are enumerated in the following list which was prepared by the Receiver General.

IMPORTS.

ARTICLES.	Quantities or Values.	1861.	1862.	Increase.
Cotton - - - -	Bales.	1,587	13,494	11,907
Tobacco, manufactured - -	Cwts.	318	997	679
Turpentine, tar, rosin - -	Barrels.	2,065	5,780	3,715

BAHAMAS.

EXPORTS.

ARTICLES.	Quantities or Values.	1861.	1862.	Increase.
Brandy	Galls.	Nil.	1,512	1,512
Coals	Tons.	„	100	100
Coffee	Cwts.	„	5,273	5,273
Cordage and oakum	Bales.	„	782	782
Cotton, linen, and woollen goods	Ad valorem.	„	£127,390	£127,390
Drugs	„	„	£39,670	£39,670
Earthen, glass, hard, and tin ware	„	„	£278,086	£278,086
Gin and whiskey	Galls.	„	7,601	7,601
Gunpowder	Kegs.	„	8,336	8,336
Indigo	Ad valorem.	„	£259	£259
Lead	Cwts.	„	2,836	2,836
Leather, manufactured	Ad valorem.	„	£26,960	£26,960
Meat, salted	Cwts.	4	601	597
Castor oil	Galls.	Nil.	15,879	15,879
Kerosine oil	„	„	4,920	4,920
Linseed oil	„	„	2,524	2,524
Olive oil	„	„	1,559	1,559
Sperm oil	„	„	3,454	3,454
Paint	Kegs.	„	164	164
Pepper	Bags.	„	533	533
Quicksilver	Flasks.	„	137	137
Rum	Galls.	„	385	385
Stationery	Ad valorem.	„	£5,804	£5,804
Tea	Lbs.	„	64,331	64,331
Wine	Galls.	„	429	429

Shipping.

The year 1862 witnessed the further progress of a trade, the unprecedented growth of which had astonished those whom it enriched in 1861. The colonists saw for the first time eight or nine steamers lying simultaneously in a harbour where formerly it was a rare thing to see one. The entrances and clearances of all kinds of vessels in 1862 exceed those of 1861, which had much exceeded those of previous years. In 1861 there entered at the Port of Nassau,—

Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
455	42,001	3,053

In 1862 there entered,—

Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
694	107,446	7,106

In 1861 there cleared from the Port of Nassau,—

Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
454	38,851	2,994

In 1862 there cleared,—

Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
718	99,862	6,942

The speculators in these ships and their consignments soon found that they had made most lucrative investments. I am informed on trustworthy authority that some of our storekeepers who took shares in these vessels and their cargoes doubled their capital within the twelve months; and this, too, in spite of the losses sustained by capture or otherwise.

Nor were the storekeepers the only persons who profited largely by this sudden trade; which has put in requisition almost every kind of skilled and unskilled labour at rates of remuneration far above the ordinary level. The loading and unloading of steamers for or from the Southern ports—the discharging and re-packing of cotton from one ship to another and other operations of the same kind have provided remunerative employment for all the lower classes of labourers. A dollar a day has been, I am told, the usual payment to men who performed this unskilled work, while they received two dollars for every night they were so employed. And it is worthy of note that, though all our stevedores, draymen, and labourers belong to the coloured population, they have evinced no unwillingness to hire their services to persons interested in the Southern trade. The earnings of skilled workmen also, particularly of ship carpenters, rose in

proportion. But the advantages of this abnormal traffic have not been limited to the gains of stevedores, draymen, and carpenters. Every young man who had skill in penmanship has found ready employment as a clerk in establishments enlarged or created to meet the sudden influx of business. That profession, too, whose gains, at all times considerable, are signally enhanced by the impetus given to commercial speculations, has profited by the accession of traders and shipping. The gentlemen of the bar have been employed in several maritime cases which were both interesting and lucrative. Perhaps the most interesting and the most lucrative was that of the celebrated "Oreto," seized and detained under the authority of the Vice-Admiralty Court on suspicion of having contravened the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act.

Nor have the storekeepers failed to increase the profits of their retail as well as their wholesale dealings. While they have sent large consignments to the Southern ports, they have sold largely, and at enhanced prices, over the counter, to Southern visitors or agents residing here. And although the dignity of an official report may be supposed to be alien from such details, it can hardly be forgotten that the dealers in dry goods, many of whom are Wesleyans, have profited much by the taste for expensive finery which among several of the better looking of the young women of the middle and lower classes has been encouraged and gratified by the generosity of their devoted though transitory admirers. This, too, has reacted upon the general earnings of female industry. Washing, millinery, sempstresses' work, are all dearer than they were three years ago. And it is found in some instances impossible to hire house servants for double the wages paid three years ago. While labour of all kinds has become much more expensive, so also have all the articles of consumption, in consequence of the aggregation of foreign seamen and merchants. Eggs have been as high as fourpence apiece and chickens three shillings and sixpence each. Rents have likewise proportionately advanced. Every little tenement or room capable of being used as a warehouse, office, or store, has been rented for an annual sum not very much less than would have been considered its full purchasing price five or six years ago.

Revenue.

While high profits and high prices have ruled throughout the colony, there have been two notable exceptions to the general state of prosperity. These two are the Government and the officials of the Government. The revenue of 1862 was 40,155*l.* being less than that of 1861 by 301*l.* This is attributable in part to the comparative increase of direct trade with the South over the retail trade with Southern agents in the latter of these two years; in part, also, to the reluctance felt by the Legislature to impose duties on goods in transitu. A very small impost on the very large importations intended for the South would have contributed a handsome addition to our public income; but a measure which would have inflicted no real injury on any one, while it would have been of great public benefit, was regarded with such dislike that I did not venture to propose it formally to the Legislature. The Government officials were the other exception to this general rule. Receiving fixed salaries which were only moderate when the general cost of living was much lower than it has been of late, they have found them wholly inadequate to meet the pressure of existing expenditure. Of this no one can speak more feelingly than myself; for I have found my official salary barely equal to the ordinary calls upon my purse.

Public Health; and Crime.

As might have been foreseen, the augmented traffic of the post brought with it other consequences than an increase of employment, earnings, and prices. The commanders and pilots of the vessels engaged in running the blockade were paid at a rate far beyond that of men similarly employed elsewhere. I am told that in some instances they were paid as much as 1000*l.* a month. The engineers and sailors were paid in an equal ratio. It would be unreasonable to suppose that English sailors who landed so flush of money would exemplify on shore the virtues of temperance and quietism. Drinking led to quarrels and breaches of the peace. But, although the convictions in the police court for the year 1862 show an excess of 236 over those of 1861, it is only fair to mention that the convictions in the superior court are less than those of 1861; thus showing that with scores of sailors and strangers among us—all having abundance of money and the means of inebriation at command—there was a general absence of those graver crimes which are produced by drunkenness and excitement. And this fact speaks most favourably for our own population and the strangers; for when we consider the cause of the present civil war, its bearing on the fortunes of the coloured race, and the sentiments of those engaged in it, it is very

BAHAMAS.

creditable to both parties that Southerners and men engaged on the southern side should mix freely and unrestrainedly with our own negro creoles, both in hours of sobriety and hours of indulgence, yet that by neither side (with two exceptions altogether) should quarrels have been carried beyond a few blows with the fist or a few words of angry abuse. In fact, it has appeared to me quite marvellous that the peace of this city should have been so well preserved in a state of things so abnormal as that which we have been for two years witnessing.

But, if drunkenness led to no (or only a few) dangerous brawls or outrages on the public peace, it conduced to an epidemic which at one time was viewed with considerable alarm. The harbour was crowded during the heats and rains of July and August with an unusual number of vessels manned by sailors equally reckless of the climate and of drink. Habits of carelessness combined with habits of intemperance to devolop a type of fever which was often fatal to men arriving from more temperate regions. English sailors were found day after day, lying in the heat of the sun, and night after night in the dews and the rains, stupefied by the poisonous liquors which are sold at fatally cheap prices here. A kind of epidemic which under other circumstances might not have proved dangerous, assumed the character of yellow fever. Of four hundred cases ninety-one proved fatal. Nor were the serious consequences of this epidemic confined to the class in which it first showed itself. The cruel nature of its ravages will long remain impressed upon the minds of the colonists by the sad death of Bishop Caulfield, the first diocesan of this new see,—a prelate whose character united in a signal degree the piety and benevolence of a Christian minister with the frank geniality of a high-minded gentleman. And the feelings which the recollection of this event calls forth are intensified by the suspicion that his end was hastened by the conscientious discharge of his spiritual duties among the dying sick at the quarantine station, which he had visited not long before his death. Although the Church of England in this colony, probably, does not reckon among its members more than one third of the whole population of the Bahamas, the Bishop was in his lifetime truly beloved, and in his death deeply regretted by the members of every sect, class, and colour in the community.

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General View.

It would, of course, be rash to predict that the results of the stimulus given by the blockade running will endure. I do not predict this. But at the same time I cannot help thinking that the state of things in this colony will never again be quite the same it was before the American civil war began. There have been within the last eighteen months great numbers of speculators and adventurers from England and America residing here, and although, probably, the majority of these will quit the colony with the cessation of the war which brought them hither, still I am not without hopes that some will remain, to establish either new species of industry, for which the resources of our out-islands are adapted, or to extend the mercantile transactions of the colony beyond the narrow limits in which they have hitherto been confined. Indeed, although I should be most unwilling to say a word which would wound the feelings of our store-keepers, I believe that their designation as "merchants" is too grand and high-sounding when measured by the magnitude and importance of the business in which most of them used to be engaged before the war began. But whatever the result of the war may be, whether independence of the South or re-construction of the Union, I can hardly help thinking, that of the many speculators whom the contest allured hither from England, from New York, and from the South, there will be found some who have discovered the latent resources of our islands, and the capability of Nassau to become the centre of a more extensive trade with Europe, with America, and with the West Indies, than it has hitherto been.

In concluding my remarks on this part of the subject, I have only to express my hope that the unprecedented prosperity with which an abnormal demand for labour has flooded the working classes of the colony, may not prove injurious to them in the end. Already I see the effect which it has had in giving to them even a more independent manner than they exhibited before; a manner in some cases merging upon insolence, and by strangers interpreted to denote an insolence and churlishness common to the whole class. But I do not apprehend any serious dangers from this cause. I would rather try to believe that the judicious admonition of their pastors and guides (such at least as regard a faithful performance of their duties more than popularity) will teach them how much of their prosperity is due to the protection which is afforded them by the English Government.

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Governor EYRE to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 35.)

King's House, Jamaica,
June 10, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to forward a Despatch from the President of Turks Island, transmitting the Blue Book for the year 1862, with a report on the same by the Colonial Secretary, and accompanied by an interesting report from himself upon the state, condition, resources, and prospects of some of the Caicos Islands, which he has lately been visiting. No. 37. of May 2, 1863.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. EYRE.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 4.

No. 37.

SIR, Government House, Grand Turk, May 2, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1862. Presidency Turks and Caicos Islands.

2. Arriving on the 6th of November of that year, I considered it better to call upon the Colonial Secretary to furnish a report upon the several subjects usually embraced in that return; while I shall now endeavour to give my personal experience and observations in an official visit I have paid to the out-islands since I assumed the duties of President in this colony.

3. I engaged a schooner of 22 tons burden, and left Grand Turk, with my private secretary, on Tuesday morning, the 24th of February last.

4. Salt Cay being the nearest island of consequence, I arrived and landed there on the forenoon of the same day, when I was met by the magistrates and other public functionaries, conducted to the "Town Hall," and received such gentlemen as called upon me. I then visited the church, a very neat little building, with the rector; the gaol, for which, I am happy to say, the key is at present unnecessary; and the school-house, which I directed to be forthwith repaired, so that the education of the children might be resumed after a cessation of nine months. A schoolmaster and mistress have been elected by the Board of Education, and I shall endeavour to persuade the rector and magistrates to extend their aid and countenance to this seminary, in order to give all parties interested that encouragement which such institutions merit at the hands of a wise and liberal government.

5. My next duty was to inspect and gain every information in connexion with the salt ponds. Their appearance, the manner in which they are laid out, the general uniformity in the size of each pan, and the admirable construction of the division walls struck me as being superior to similar works in Grand Turk. As many of the proprietors were busily engaged in cleaning their pans, I thus, by practical illustration, was enabled to satisfy myself as to the correctness of my report upon this and other steps in the process of salt making, forwarded to his Grace the Secretary of State in my despatch to your Excellency, No. 19, dated 16th February, 1863. One great error is common to both islands; the smallness of reservoir, compared with the pans actually under cultivation. The former should be, at the least, as three to one; but at Grand Turk it is 178 to 224, and at Salt Cay it is 108 to 136 acres. I hope, however, that when the ordinances lately passed by the Legislative Council come into operation, the new proprietors will themselves see the advantage of altering this very injurious system, and by adopting a better proportion of reservoir, make as much, if not more, salt, and that of a greatly superior quality. I think that I here discovered the cause of the salt disease, adverted to in my despatch quoted above. One gentleman, a man of extreme energy, and lessee of a large extent of salt pond, attributes it, so far as Salt Cay was affected 10 years ago, to the opening of a new canal to the sea, at the south-east end of the island, by which operation, he conceives, a large quantity of vegetable matter was introduced into the reservoir and pans; but, after diligent inquiry, I was led to the conclusion that the previously adopted practice of annually cleaning the pans, and throwing the slime and mud there collected into the reservoir, instead of, as now adopted, carting it away to a distance, was the real cause of poisoning the pickle preparing in the reservoir for introduction into the pans. No doubt the presence of any decaying foreign substance must injure the brine, but such being carried in by the purest sea water could not accumulate immediately in such quantities as to materially damage so vast a quantity of liquid; much more likely that the many years accretion of the refuse from the pans at last resulted in producing diseased pickle, which fully developed itself while undergoing evaporation in the pans. Such, at least, is my present impression, and I leave it to further inquiry and experience either to confirm or modify this view of the subject.

6. I was here entertained by the Honourable C. J. Stamers, and Mr. George D. Jones, both of whom showed me much attention, and at whose houses I met the principal inhabitants of the island, who have been, and continue to be, an enterprising community, and, from all I saw, a loyal and contented section of this colony.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

7. But little has been done by the Government for this, in comparison with the island of Grand Turk; and, before continuing my passage on the following morning, I inspected the site of a proposed pier, which is an essential work for the safe shipping of salt under certain conditions and direction of the wind, which the lessees informed me would be of incalculable convenience to them at all times, and would be accepted by them from the Government as a great boon. I therefore purpose to take steps in that direction with the first available means at my disposal.

8. Wednesday, the 25th, I left Salt Cay, and after a very stormy passage across the main channel, arrived at East or Cockburn Harbour, on the Caicos group, at midday. Here I was met on the beach by Mr. St. George D. Tucker, the Assistant Stipendiary Justice, the other Justices of the Peace, and some of the inhabitants, and proceeded to the house rented as public offices, which is also used by the officer administering this government when visiting East Harbour. On my reaching the house, which is beautifully situated on the top of a hill, overlooking a snug harbour, nearly encircled by small islands, the address was presented to me, which I now embrace in this report—

"SIR, East Harbour, February 23, 1863.

"For ourselves, and in behalf of the inhabitants of the Caicos Islands generally, we, the undersigned "members of this community, hasten to express to your Honor our unfeigned thankfulness for your "consideration in visiting this portion of your government so early after your advent in the presidency, "and to offer you a hearty welcome to this settlement.

"The Caicos Islands need the protecting eye and fostering care of the administrator of the govern- "ment, and whilst the population solicit your aid and encouragement, they respectfully pledge their "ready concurrence in support of any and all measures which may be decided upon for the promotion "and security of the interests of this and every part of the presidency.

"That your prompt attention to, and zealous solicitude for, the welfare of your government may "meet with its due reward, and that every blessing may attend yourself and family, is the earnest "prayer of,

"Sir,
"Very respectfully,
"Your obedient servants."

(Signed by forty-two of the principal inhabitants.)

Not having been previously prepared for this, I replied to it immediately in a few sentences, thanking the deputation for their hearty reception and welcome, assuring them that it would now be, as it had on previous opportunities been, my aim to foster and encourage all well-directed efforts of the people; and expressing my gratitude to them for their good wishes for the welfare of myself and family. I then conversed with several of the gentlemen present, and was entertained in the evening by Mr. and Mrs. Tucker at their hospitable board. The afternoon of this and the following day were devoted to driving over the surrounding country, examining the capabilities and productions of the plantations, and the very admirable salt pond property, which is, without exception, the most valuable of that nature which I have yet seen in the colony.

9. A plan of upwards of 300 acres extends beyond the town, about 240 of which are at present under "cultivation" as reservoirs and pans; the latter occupying about 70, while the former, wisely, are made to embrace an area of 170 acres. This salina is, however, capable of increasing the pans and proportionally diminishing the reservoir, necessary at other similar works, owing to the very beautiful and valuable natural advantages it possesses in a perennial supply of sea water from an orifice in the ground, situated in the midst of the works, called the "boiling hole." Surrounding this hole in the soil, a wooden box or enclosure of 10 feet square has been erected, built in, and strengthened by stone, and furnished with a sluice gate, which is opened or closed to regulate the quantity of water required in the reservoir. The water in this box rises and falls with the tide, an evident proof of its connexion with the sea; a connexion, however, although sought for for miles, which cannot yet with certainty be traced to the shore. One gentleman thought he had discovered it, as, one day when engaged in boating at a place called "Fish Rock," about two miles from the beach, his boat was suddenly sucked towards a vortex near the rocks, and whirled round with great velocity; but either the natural alarm of the moment, or the failure of future experiment, prevented him from satisfying his own mind of the correctness of his conjecture. This boiling hole communicates its waters to a basin of about 30 acres in extent, varying from one to three feet in depth, and in the event of a heavy fall of rain and overflow of the pans, the fresh water is drawn off, and pure sea water again admitted. A cross wall, of three feet high and four wide, separates this basin from the main reservoir, which has an area of about 100 acres, but not quite so much depth as the former.

10. Before passing the water from the basin to the reservoir, the salometer indicates the strength, by the figures 30. There it is allowed to "ripen," and is drawn off by the principal and sub-lessees into their private reservoirs to suit their convenience and the requirements of their pans. The process of salt making then advances, as I have indicated in the despatch above referred to. I may add, however, that when at East Harbour, as elsewhere, labour is insufficient to take off a pan when fit for that operation, fresh pickle is admitted on the top of the cake already formed, which "makes up" into salt as the previous pickle. Last year, this process was repeated three times, in some instances, and a great proportion of the pans yielded at the rate of 18,000 bushels of salt per acre. The smallest quantity raked at this favoured spot, in ordinary seasons, is certainly not less than 7,500 bushels per acre.

11. On Thursday afternoon I visited and examined the school and scholars at East Harbour. Many of the children showed proficiency in reading, arithmetic, and geography, but I felt myself called upon to recommend to the master, who appears in every respect a capable teacher, to more thoroughly exercise them in sacred and other history.

12. Friday, 26th.—This morning I left the schooner in the harbour, and, accompanied by Mr. Tucker, Mr. Basden, and Mr. Stamers, started for the settlement of Lorimers, in a half-decked flat-bottomed boat, which was indispensable in crossing over the immense reach of shallow water and sand bars which extend sixty miles in length, and from fifteen to fifty miles in breadth, along the south

side of the Caicos. Our purport was to reach Lorimers either the same night or early next morning, but a severe gale of wind forced back the tide to such an extent, as to leave us aground about ten miles from the shore, where darkness overtook us, and we had to resign ourselves to the inevitable consequence of passing the night in the boat. Stretching an awning, and making ourselves as comfortable as our situation would permit, we slept as we could, and wished for the day.

13. The morning of Saturday the 27th dawned, the gale continuing, accompanied by heavy squalls and rain. The three men, who formed our crew, had to jump overboard, and by dint of throwing over the ballast, and shoving the boat through the sand bars, and over the shallows, we got within a quarter of a mile of the shore, when we all took to the water and waded to land. A three miles walk brought us to an abandoned estate, called "Increase," and to the cottage of a decent black woman, where we were glad to make our toilets, take some refreshment, and a siesta, during the heat of the day, ere each, with his portmanteau, and two men with other necessaries, started for a walk to Lorimers, situated about six miles in the interior, or rather, nearly over to the north side of the island, where we arrived at dark. Having dined, we retired to bed, but, alas! not to sleep. It appears that an abundant crop of guinea corn conduces to the production and dissemination of a pest of fleas and chiegos, which torment the uninitiated, and set comfort and sleep at defiance; and, although the house we occupied seemed cleanly and wholesome, these plagues infested us during our stay at this place.

14. Sunday, 28th.—I was much pleased to-day, when visiting the Sabbath school, in connexion with the only place of worship here, kept up by the Baptist mission. Mr. Kerr appears to take great pains with his charge, and evidently imparts sound religious instruction to the scholars, who evinced considerable aptitude both in replying to questions put, and in "part singing," in which latter they excelled. There was a good attendance of adults at the morning service, which Mr. Kerr conducted, and whose address was suited to his hearers, and displayed a knowledge of gospel truth, with felicity in his manner of communicating it. The day of rest seemed to be quietly and decorously kept by the settlers, and I understand that Mr. Kerr has been, happily, an instrument in working a great change for the better among the people, who appear much and deservedly attached to him.

15. Monday 29th.—Anxious to see as much of the country as my time would permit, I hired horses, and, accompanied by my private secretary and Mr. Stamers, started early in the morning for one of the pine forests, called here "Pine Barrens." I was induced to take this step from various motives. The impossibility of procuring pitch pine lumber, owing to the unhappy struggle now waging in the States of America, led me to hope that, should I find the trees at all suitable, I might direct the energies of some of the people into a channel of industry which might prove profitable to themselves, and most serviceable to the government and the inhabitants of this colony. After riding about eight miles, we had to dismount, and walk another ere we reached the pines. I had accomplished the first step, and your Excellency may conceive how gratified I was to find that the trees were all that I had desired. Very rich pitch pine, capable of squaring up to eight inches, even on the confines of the barren. Much larger trees I saw in the distance, and I have since ascertained that timber of twelve and eighteen inches can be procured close to some of the creeks, which afford water carriage to each side of the island. It may be as well to add here, that before leaving East Harbour on my return, I engaged a man, who entered into a contract to deliver certain pieces of scantling, squaring four and eight inches, which are required for the public market at this place; a portion of this he has already delivered, the rest is cut, and he is now engaged in getting it out, in order to boat it to Grand Turk. This is the beginning of what I hope will prove of benefit to this and the surrounding islands, and I am now about to seek information as to the method adopted in the States, in procuring pitch and turpentine, to render, not my discovery, but, the practical use of God's surrounding countries, more widely beneficial to the settlers than they have hitherto been.

16. In communities similar to this, the labouring population look to the executive, as children to a parent; and unless he personally exerts himself for their instruction and welfare, they continue to be satisfied with things as their fathers left them, and have no idea of striking out for themselves fresh paths of industry, which might lead to comfort, and ultimate independence.

17. Returning to breakfast, I visited the day school at 12 o'clock noon, where I found a large attendance both of parents and children. The examination of the latter by Mr. Kerr was most creditable alike to teacher and taught, and I can only repeat, that young and old in this settlement are under deep obligations to this missionary, for the able and earnest manner in which he seems to be conducting his labours among them.

18. Having dismissed the children, I invited the old people to speak to me of their wants and wishes; many of them did so, and the salient points of complaint seemed to be the absence of any security to them of the lands they now cultivate, for which some of them said they had made part payment under the Bahama Government, but for which they could procure no satisfactory acknowledgment, and my recent prohibition to the indiscriminate cutting of dyewoods, &c. I promised to do what I could to rectify the former cause of uneasiness, and satisfied them that I could not act otherwise than I had done, and would continue to do in the latter case. I took the ground that this trespassing upon the property of the Crown, and of private individuals, was dishonest, an injury which they would undoubtedly resent if practised on their own grounds or plantations, and a crime as now explained to them, I believed none of those who professed right principles would again be guilty of. They appeared a little surprised at my way of putting it, and expressed their determination to desist from this practice in future; since then, some licences to cut dye and other woods have been issued, but with so scattered a population as exists at the Caicos Islands, I fear it will be a most difficult task to keep those honest who are naturally inclined to be otherwise. Addressing them shortly as to their privileges, and what I conceived to be their duties, pointing out amongst other fields of industry and profit, the cultivation of the cocoa nut tree, and the cotton plant, ground admirably adapted for both, having been passed over by my party that morning. I took leave of them, and was gratified by the warm expression of thanks I received from very many of these simple people for my visit, and the advice on many subjects which I had offered to them. After an early dinner we started, this time on horseback, for our first halting place, and while riding through the village, old and young turned out to give us a parting greeting. Next to the fleas and chiegos, children and pigs appear to be the

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

most abundant natural productions at Lorimers. The multitude of nude and semi-nude children clustering on the boundary walls was really remarkable; and, making a rough estimate, I should calculate that an allowance of six children under the age of fourteen, to each cottage, was not by any means excessive. This speaks volumes for the healthiness of the place; and from all appearances, there was no grounds for apprehending, when I was there, that this population was likely to suffer a decrease.

19. The ride to "Increase" was very pleasant. Independently of the satisfaction I experienced at accomplished duty, and the hope that some good might accrue to the people, I had the gratification of knowing that every yard I progressed successfully widened the distance between my person and my recent plagues; and that serenity of mind and quietude of body, which it had been impossible to enjoy for two or three days past, were gradually being restored, so that I could with comfort look around me and be gratified with the gorgeous beauty of a tropical sunset, while the ear was filled with the wild melody poured forth by the mocking bird, and the cooing of the wood dove from the depths of the surrounding foliage.

20. We arrived at "Increase" just before darkness enveloped the scenery; and, here, I shall attempt to give a short description of the nature of the soil and country over which I had passed. An account of the resources and productions of the whole group of the Caicos Islands, I requested the Assistant stipendiary magistrate to furnish me with, and I shall append to this report a copy of the document he has forwarded to me. I am informed that I have not yet seen the best soil, nor the finest lands in the Caicos. The limited time I had at my disposal on this visit, would not allow me to proceed to the middle Caicos, which is described to me as the most fertile, and the best adapted to agriculture, and stock raising; but much of what I did see induces the belief that, were an improved method of cultivation introduced, and the wise system adopted of making a grateful return, by way of manure, to the soil,—which is now impoverished and exhausted by the prevailing and idle custom of burning off, instead of gathering and storing the refuse of the crops, the weeds, and other decaying vegetable matter,—far more might be accomplished,—a greater variety of fruits and vegetables could be raised,—the land would retain its fertility,—and the existing plan of squatters running from place to place, cutting down, burning, and planting fresh grounds, be abolished. The most of the country over which I travelled appears to abound in cavernous limestone, and when fire passes over it the soil becomes so friable as to be readily removed by strong winds, or washed away by heavy rains, from its substratum of rock. In the large holes and fissures of this stone, it is customary to plant the fruit trees, oranges, avocado pear, lime, lemon, &c., and it is astonishing how well these succeed under such circumstances. The roots must seek soil and sustenance at considerable distances from the stem, which when fully grown, often fills up the hole in which it was originally planted. The only exception to this kind of soil which I met with, was during my ride to the Pine Barren, when I passed over a level plain, apparently five miles square, composed of marl and sand, and which, I was informed, is sometimes during very high tides, partially submerged by water from the creek which crosses the island a short distance below. Here I advised the people to try the cocoa-nut; and, from my past experience, I am almost sure it would be a success.

Sub-Encl.

21. On the outskirts of this plain, cotton could be most advantageously cultivated, for I think it has all the requisites favourable to the production of that plant,—flat land, not too far from the sea air, a surface stony and moderately rich, and below that, a bed of marl. All of which, I understand to be comprised in the best land for cotton growing, and to be similar to that of Georgia and Alabama. In all parts of this island the cotton plant is now growing wild, and the produce was at one time exported thence, in large quantities, to England, where, in the Liverpool market, it used to command the highest price.

22. The "King's Road," over a portion of which I travelled, used to commence at this estate ("Increase"), pass northward to Lorimers and Bambarra, and thence westward, to Bottle Creek, Kew, Wade's Green, Whitby, and Fort George, where the principal cotton and sugar estates were situated, and from the latter place, the produce shipped to Europe. This road must have been a work of great labour. About thirty miles in length, it was protected on each side by a substantial stone wall, and kept in fine order for the use of those gentlemen and their families who, loyal amidst rebellion, left Virginia, and settled at the Caicos, during the early part of the American war. Much of these walls remains to mark the course of the road, now alas! but a collection of rocks and brushwood, with the exception of the bridle-path in constant use.

23. March 3d.—A favourable wind blowing this morning, we left "Increase" at daylight, and reaching the boat a little after sunrise, set sail, and running in a south-westerly direction over the shallows, and among the most extraordinary sand banks, which abound at this portion of the Caicos, we arrived safely at 4 o'clock p.m. where the schooner was anchored on the edge of these banks, about fifteen miles from the shore, and twenty miles to leeward of Lorimers Creek. Leaving the crew of the boat to return to East Harbour the anchor was weighed, and the schooner beat up to the same place, which we reached the following night at 9 o'clock.

24. March 5th.—As I intended that this should be the last day I could spend on this visit at East or Cockburn Harbour, I devoted it to a further examination of the salinas and surrounding country. Of the cultivated salinas I have perhaps said enough, but Mr. Tucker echoed the same sad tale of "hard times" which has sounded in my ears ever since my arrival. He tells me that the Crown lessee, Mr. Butterfield, has heretofore only expended capital, and that he has at various times advanced much money to the sub-lessees, from whom, owing to the long depressed value of salt, he has as yet received no return, although he now gets his salinas for nothing, the sub-lessees paying the annual rent of two hundred and forty pounds amongst them. Mr. Tucker, who has completed and hitherto conducted the whole works at East Harbour, is of the opinion, however, that one or two good seasons will enable the sub-lessees to repay Mr. Butterfield in full, and that that gentleman will then have a very valuable property in possession, and a handsome annual income arising from it. During my drive I observed immediately behind the salina leased to Mr. Butterfield, another, comprising an area of 100 acres, which needs but the initiatory step of being subdivided by the low stone embankments, already referred to, to make it as valuable as the former; as there is a provision in Mr. Butterfield's lease that the water from the "boiling hole" may be made available for this work also.

25. I examined the soil at this settlement, and found it, about three miles from the shipping place, to be much deeper and not so encumbered with stones as at Lorimers. Many vegetables are here grown, and Mr. Tucker has enclosed and ploughed up about four acres of land preparatory to planting cotton as an experiment.

26. The time had now expired which I could afford to spare to this flying visit; so, leaving the harbour at 9 o'clock p.m., I reached Grand Turk early on the morning of the 6th of March, on which day the mail arrived from England.

27. As the result of this inspection, I have made myself acquainted with much which it was very desirable I should know. My personal observation enables me to now form a pretty correct judgment of the merits of any representation which may reach me from that quarter, and I trust that some benefit may arise to the people forming the two settlements I was able to overtake. That I may be as favourably impressed and be of equal or more use to other portions of the islands, when I shall have the time and the opportunity to make an official tour amongst them, is my earnest wish.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Eyre,
&c. &c. &c.

ALEX. W. MOIR,
President.

Sub-Enclosure.

Mr. TUCKER and others to PRESIDENT MOIR.

SIR, Turks and Caicos Islands, February 20, 1863.

THE undersigned, who have resided for many years on the Caicos Islands, beg to submit such information as they have been able to obtain respecting the resources of these islands.

In the early settlement of this part of the colony large quantities of cotton were produced and exported to England direct, in vessels which brought out supplies of British goods; this was done during the existence of slavery, when labour was secure, and when there were fully 3,000 inhabitants.

The cultivation of this valuable commodity may be carried on as advantageously as ever; it only requires labour, energy, and some capital, in which the present scattered settlers are deficient, having no disposition to give their attention to anything beyond a supply of daily or weekly wants, and this scantily.

To procure such information as your Honor requires respecting the agricultural produce of these islands, it will require a skilful person to give the land a fair trial; at present it is difficult to ascertain what an acre of ground will produce, as the settlers cultivate the soil in detached pieces which suits their habits.

It is the opinion of those persons capable of judging, that if agriculture were properly attended to, it would pay 100 per cent. better than salt raking in proportion to the outlay.

The cost of clearing land is from 16*s.* to 24*s.* per acre. Less when there are no trees to cut down.

The value of vegetables, fruits, corn, and other productions may be estimated as follows:—

Indian corn per bushel, from 4*s.* to 6*s.*
Guinea corn ,, ,, 3*s.* to 5*s.*
(these may be produced in abundance.)
Sweet potatoes, 4*s.* per bushel.
Pumpkins, from 2*s.* to 4*s.* per dozen.
Sugar cane, 10*s.* to 16*s.* 8*d.* per hundred.
Cassava grows well, but is seldom sold.
Yams, 8*s.* to 10*s.* per 100 lbs.
Plantains, not in abundance, 16 for 1*s.*
Oranges of superior quality, 4*s.* to 6*s.* per 100.
Bananas, from 1*s.* to 4*s.* per bunch.
Avocado pears, from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* per dozen.

Limes, lemons, sour oranges, and all the fruits of a tropical climate may be produced in great abundance, and of excellent quality. A superior quality of tobacco may be produced. Cocoa nut trees grow there, but are not generally cultivated, although the soil in many parts of the Caicos Islands seems well adapted for their production.

Sheep, horned cattle, and horses thrive well.

Sheep sell from 14*s.* to 20*s.* per head, and when well fed, weigh from 16 to 20 lbs. per quarter, the mutton being considered of superior quality.

Cattle sell according to size from 3*l.* to 10*l.*, sometimes at a higher rate, and if such stock were well attended to, might be raised in sufficient numbers to supply the Turks Island Market, where beef is sold from 8*d.* to 10*d.* per lb., mutton 10*d.*, and pork at 8*d.*

Horses sell from 6*l.* to 12*l.*

Turtle, fish, crabs, conchs, lobsters, and other shell fish abound, so do wild ducks, pigeons, and other game; in fact the islands are capable of producing all that may be had in any of the other West Indies.

The cost of a wattled, and plastered cottage, with two floors 16 by 20 feet, 10 feet high, is from 25*l.* to 30*l.*, a small cottage with one floor much less.

Facilities for obtaining wood for building purposes are great, as there are valuable forests of pine, yellow wood, mahogany, spruce, and pitch pine.

Braziletto and ebony wood have been exported in considerable quantities during the past year.

Lime of excellent quality can be burned in any quantity from stone, shells, or coral, at from 4*d.* to 5*d.* per bushel; fuel is abundant.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

The cost of a common fishing boat is from 4*l.* to 6*l.*

A good sized sail boat for bringing produce to market, will cost from 30*l.* to 50*l.*

Agricultural wages may be quoted at from 1*l.* to 1*l.* 10*s.* per month with rations, but the labourers will seldom engage themselves, except by the day at from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; they are not fond of work and will do as little as they can.

Heavy rains may be expected during the summer months, and the productions of these islands are generally brought to market in May and December.

The general mode of travelling is on foot; in some parts of Middle Caicos the roads which were once very good, are now so completely overgrown as to be impassable by horses.

The islands are generally healthy; some neglected and damp localities are subject to fevers in the fall of the year, which are not of a dangerous type. In fact the Turks and Caicos Islands may be considered among the most healthy portions of the world, and we may proudly and thankfully invite the invalids of northern climates to seek for the restoration of health in this colony, which numbers have already done with great success.

The Caicos islands in particular can boast of having the strongest and most healthy individuals in a tropical climate. Their food consists principally of fish, corn, shell-fish, and vegetables; and they frequently attain the advanced age of 70 or 90 years. As a proof of the salubrity of this climate, we may mention that a few years since there were four or five old persons living together whose ages were from 90 to 100 years.

Owing to the great indolence of most of the settlers, as well as their want of agricultural skill, very little would be raised did it not grow spontaneously.

If so much is, therefore, produced now at the Caicos in its present state, and under such circumstances, what may not be done by industry and skilful cultivation.

We have, &c.

(Signed) ST. GEORGE D. TUCKER.
COPELAND J. STAMERS.
PETER E. MORRISON.

To his Honor Alexander W. Moir, Esquire, President
Administering the Government of the
Turks and Caicos Islands.

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

MR. MCINTOSH TO PRESIDENT MOIR.

SIR, Colonial Secretary's Office, Grand Turk, May 1863.

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward for transmission to the Colonial Office one transcript of the compilation of Blue Book returns from the Turks and Caicos Islands for 1862, the duplicate of which will be ready for transmission by a subsequent mail, a course heretofore adopted with a view to security, instead of despatching the two together. And in compliance with your Honor's desire, I, at the same time, submit a few remarks upon those subjects contained in the compilation which call for special notice, commencing with

Revenue.

2. The revenue for the year 1862, comprised under the several heads of "fixed," "incidental," "receipts in aid," and "arrears (or balance) of last year" amounted to 12,634*l.* 2*s.* 7½*d.*, which, compared with the year 1861, is an increase of 1,148*l.* 14*s.* 10½*d.*, as will appear by the following statement:—

	1861.	1862.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Fixed - -	6,254 16 11	7,763 4 4	1,508 7 5	——
Incidental - -	42 4 3	——	——	42 4 3
Receipts in Aid -	2,451 18 1¼	3,006 11 1½	554 13 0¼	——
Arrears - -	2,736 8 5¾	1,864 7 2	——	872 1 3¾
Total Revenue -	11,485 7 9	12,634 2 7½	2,063 0 5¼	914 5 6¾

Difference of increase over decrease in favour of 1862, 1,148*l.* 14*s.* 10½*d.*

3. It is, however, in the comparison of the "fixed revenue" that the improvement in 1862 is most noteworthy, showing as it does an increase of 1,508*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* over the year 1861, and was derived from the excess obtained from import duties, an export duty of 1*s.* 4*d.* per bushel on salt, and a light duty of 4*d.* per ton on shipping.

4. The "receipts in aid" are derived from crown rents of salt ponds appropriated for public works, education, support of a poor's house and hospital, and salaries of special justice and auditor of accounts. They also include a sum of 300*l.* granted annually from the general post office revenues, for the mail service of the colony.

Expenditure.

5. The expenditure for the year 1862 amounted to 10,744*l.* 19*s* 9½*d.*, being 1,123*l.* 19*s.* 2½*d.* in excess of the expenditure for 1861, which was 9,621*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*

6. This excess has arisen chiefly from providing for a more efficient police establishment, an increased number of inmates in the poor's house and hospital, printing a compilation of the laws in force in the colony, public works, and an instalment paid on the purchase of public buildings.

Local Revenue.

7. Under this head, at page 34, will be found an abstract of the accounts kept at the Crown Commissioners Office, of receipts and expenditure of Crown funds, derived principally from the rentals of salt ponds, with some few incidental receipts, amounting in the whole to 5,299*l.* 18*s.* 3½*d.*, of which sum 973*l.* 12*s.* 0½*d.* was expended on works "incident to the care and improvement of the property from "which those funds arise, and to the collection of those funds themselves."

8. With respect to the item of expenditure 2,699*l.* 1*s.* 1½*d.* disbursed as in aid of the colonial revenue, that amount, although actually disbursed by the Crown Commissioner, will be found to be incorporated with, and detailed in the abstract of "net revenue and expenditure," under the head of "receipts in aid," leaving a balance of 938*l.* 0*s.* 8¾*d.* after paying off the excess of expenditure in 1861, which amounted to 689*l.* 4*s.* 4¾*d.*

9. There is no local or parochial taxation.

Public Debt.

10. The original debt was the sum of 8,000*l.* awarded to be paid by the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, as its portion of the public debt of the Bahamas, due at the time of their separation from that Government on the 25th December 1848 to be liquidated at or before the expiration of 16 years after that date. At the close of 1853, the payment to the Bahama Government was completed by raising on debentures a sum of money sufficient to pay up the balance then due 1,838*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

11. The present debt, 900*l.*, is comprised in two of those debentures, still outstanding in the hands of one individual, a resident in this community.

Military.

12. The only expenditure under this head for the past year was the sum of 186*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* incurred for the incidental expenses of the "Royal Volunteer Rifle Corps," and a Volunteer Artillery Corps.

13. There is no military expense defrayed from the British Treasury.

Public Works.

14. There was no work of magnitude executed during the year, unless, from its great convenience to the public generally, the construction of a wharf in front of the town at Grand Turk can claim such distinction.

Legislation.

15. During the earlier part of the session of the Legislature in 1862, eight ordinances were passed by the Council, all of which, with the exception of Ordinance No. 2, to establish an auxiliary constabulary force, have received Her Majesty's gracious confirmation. The most important of these, is one for the registration of births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials, the operation of which will be put in full force so soon as it can be had in print, and the necessary machinery for carrying out its provisions can be effected.

16. Towards the close of the session three other ordinances were passed by the Council, severally having reference to the conversion of the tenure of salt ponds within these islands from leasehold to freehold,—a boon long and most anxiously sought for by the lessees, and a measure, if carried out on the principle now under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, cannot otherwise than be conducive to the best interests of the colony, commercially as well as in a social point of view.

Imports, Exports, and Shipping.

17. The imports, exports, and shipping for the year 1862 contrast favourably with those of the preceding year 1861, both in regard to value and revenue.

18. The value of imports in 1862 amounted to 35,956*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, yielding a revenue of 4,079*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, which, compared with 1861, shows an increase in value of 9,378*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, and 653*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* in revenue.

19. The exports, amounting to 32,714*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* exceeded those in 1861 by 7,735*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, and comprised 1,982,596 bushels of salt, the produce of the colony, valued at 28,131*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*, and on which the duty, 1*s.* 4*d.* per bushel, collected, amounted to 2,065*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*

20. The quantity of salt exported in 1862 surpassed that of any previous year.

21. The returns of shipping exhibit a tonnage inwards of 57,521 tons for 1862, against 34,172 tons in 1861, which excess afforded a corresponding increase of revenue under the head of light duties.

22. The following, Tables 1 and 2, present a succinct view of the subjects treated under this last general head of imports, exports, and shipping.

TABLE No. I.

Imports.		Inwards.	Exports.		Outwards.
Value.	Duties.	Tons.	Value.	Duties.	Tons.
		1861.			
£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
26,578 2 0	3,426 9 1	34,172	24,978 18 9	1,416 13 11	36,528
		1862.			
35,956 8 9	4,079 12 9	57,521	32,714 11 3	2,065 4 1	58,792

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

TABLE No. II.

1861.		1862.	
Bushels of Salt.	Value.	Bushels of Salt.	Value.
1,360,028	£ 21,713 s. 2 d. 6	1,982,596	£ 28,131 s. 12 d. 2

Agriculture.

No survey of lands at the colony has ever been recorded here, and the partial surveys of tracts of land at the Caicos, granted to the original settlers under the Bahama Government, have been lost sight of.

24. The agricultural pursuits of the early settlers at the Caicos Islands, like all others of the Bahama group, gave great promise of productiveness and prosperity, but from a combination of circumstances, those fair prospects have been blighted, and the lands for many years past have been allowed to sink into a state of worthlessness, except as affording opportunities to those who have been emancipated from a state of slavery, of acquiring an independent location by "squatting."

25. This change is mainly to be attributed to the depreciation in the price of cotton in the English market, consequent upon the change which took place in the commercial intercourse between Great Britain and the United States of America after the war of 1815, the abundant and increasing supplies of the article of cotton from the Southern States, putting it out of the power of the West Indian to compete with the more favoured cultivator on the continent.

26. Most of the original settlers were compelled to abandon their plantations, seeking elsewhere more lucrative employment, and the few who remained subsequently betaking themselves to the cultivation of the salt ponds at the Turks Islands.

27. It may here be observed, that besides the cultivation of cotton at the Caicos, and salt at the Turks Islands, as staple articles of export, the lands of the colony are well adapted to the growth of every tropical produce, as well as for raising live stock of every kind, so that with a small outlay of capital, and more energy and industry on the part of the labouring class, a sufficient supply of fresh meats, vegetables, and fruits might be obtained, fully adequate, indeed more than sufficient, for home consumption; instead, as is now the case, of having to seek for such from the neighbouring coast of the island of St. Domingo, or being dependent on the casual import of them from the States of America.

Labour.

28. It is difficult to ascertain the true average of wages for labour in this colony. It is principally at the season of salt gathering and shipping that labour is in demand, when all salt pond proprietors are eager to procure it at any price; consequently, a high rate is paid for predial labour.

29. For many months during the year the common labourer procures a precarious livelihood occupying their time principally, the men in fishing, the women in cultivating small patches of Guinea corn, and the sweet potatoe; the growth of which articles of food, the sandy soil of the Turks Islands appears to be well adapted to.

Education.

30. I regret the occasion to call attention to the unsatisfactory state of the public schools of the colony, as evidenced in the returns for 1862, sent in by the Inspector of Schools, which, when compared with those of 1861, show a decrease in the number of scholars in every governmental school, numbering six, in the colony.

31. It is difficult to account for the apathy on the part of parents generally to avail themselves of the opportunity so liberally afforded by this Government, of obtaining instruction for their children; alleged by some, to be a reluctance to contribute the trifling fee of 1½*d.* per week for each child; by others, to the prevailing practice of employing their children, at the earliest available age, in assisting them in their daily pursuits; a practice which must militate against preliminary preparation for, as well as against regular attendance at school; the more generally received opinion, however, I concur in, which is, that the parents, for the most part themselves illiterate, are incapable of duly appreciating the benefits derivable from early instruction, and consequently neglect to enforce attendance, and a proper observance on the part of their children of school discipline.

Gaols and Prisoners.

32. The gaol returns represent three gaols in the colony.

That at Grand Turk is the only one, however, used for penal purposes, the others, at Salt Cay and the Caicos, being used as places of "lock up" until a prisoner can be transferred to the common gaol at Grand Turk.

33. Prison management and discipline, governed by rules, framed as nearly as circumstances will admit, in accordance with prison regulations in England, are conducted in an efficient manner.

34. The criminal returns for 1862, compare favourably with those of preceding years, the convictions being principally for minor offences, most of them adjudicated by summary process at the police office.

35. The gaol premises have frequently been represented as insufficient, either as a place of security for the confinement of prisoners, or as affording accommodation for the proper carrying out of the prison regulations.

36. A plan and estimates have been submitted for the construction of a new building, with suitable out-offices, but nothing has as yet been concluded upon.

Charitable Institutions.

37. Under this last head is comprised a poor's-house and hospital, forming conjointly an asylum for the aged and infirm, and for those of the indigent classes requiring medical treatment.

There has been no instance, that I am aware of, of any person capable of procuring daily support, either from his or her own exertions, or through the benevolence of relatives and friends, ever seeking parochial aid from the Government.

38. This institution is conducted under the supervision of a committee of management appointed annually by the President.

39. The average number of inmates during the last year, was 17 males and females.

40. The establishment was supported by a charge defrayed from the Crown Funds of the Colony, amounting to 391*l.* 17*s.* 0½*d.*

I have, &c.

His Honour Alex. W. Moir, Esq., President of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

(Signed) J. J. McINTOSH, Colonial Secretary.

TRINIDAD.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor KEATE to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 101.)

MY LORD DUKE, Trinidad, June 20, 1863.

1. I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace the Blue Book for Trinidad for 1862, and to report as follows on its state and prospects.

2. The sugar producing colonies of Great Britain must all be suffering in a greater or less degree from the effects of the civil war in America. To this cause of depression is added, as regards Trinidad, the still unsettled condition of the neighbouring Republic of Venezuela. The colony may, therefore, be said to be in a state of checked expansion. It is exhibited in decreased profits of industry, and in restriction of trade, but not yet in diminished production. This will follow if the causes continue to operate. The prospects of the island depend in great measure on their speedy removal.

3. The finances of the colony are now in a sound condition, but the diminution of individual incomes is necessarily reflected on the public income for the year. The whole receipts of the treasury, from all sources brought to account as revenue, amounted in 1862 to 199,372*l.* against 171,729*l.* in 1861, exceeding the latter, therefore, by 27,643*l.* But these totals, when analyzed, do not show augmented elasticity in the several branches of ordinary revenue. The customs, for instance, including under that head import duties, tonnage, warehouse and wharf dues, produced in 1861 78,374*l.*, in 1862, 74,684*l.*, exhibiting a decrease of 3,690*l.* The duty again on rum entered for consumption, which yielded in 1861 37,225*l.*, gave in 1862 35,455*l.* Licences for the sale of spirits produced in 1861 4,385*l.*, and in 1862 3,134*l.* The two together show a decrease of 3,021*l.* These heads of revenue, especially the customs, are the truest exponents of the condition of the colony.

4. As six years have now elapsed since I assumed the government of Trinidad, it may not be uninteresting to compare the progress of the colony, as measured by its customs revenue during these six years and the six years which immediately preceded them. I subjoin, therefore, the following tabular statement:—

Customs revenue during the six years commencing—

1st January 1851, and ending on 31st December 1856.	£	1st January 1857, and ending on 31st December 1862.	£
1851	55,399	1857	72,989
1852	49,118	1858	80,053
1853	51,491	1859	77,061
1854	56,198	1860	80,508
1855	53,608	1861	78,374
1856	71,772	1862	74,684
	337,586		463,669

TRINIDAD.

During the first of these two series of years export duties were levied in aid of general revenue in the years 1851 and 1856, and their proceeds are included in the totals given for those years. During the second series no such export duties were levied in any year.

5. The excess of revenue in 1862 over 1861 is mainly made up by the receipts under the new head of taxes, viz., the income tax, collected in 1862 for the first time, and by the export duties levied in aid of immigration at a higher rate than in 1861. The former produced 8,988*l.*, the latter 21,908*l.*, at a rate equivalent to 7*s.* 3½*d.* per hogshead of sugar, against 9,879*l.* in 1861, at a rate equivalent to 3*s.* 6*d.* per hogshead.

6. Though no comparison with former years can be instituted, the enclosed copies of returns furnished by the Income Tax Commissioners will serve to illustrate the action of the profits of individual industry upon the public revenue. The number of persons assessed to the income tax is given in the Blue Book, at page 214, at 781. As all incomes under 100*l.* are exempt, it would seem that in 1862 there were but 781 persons enjoying an income of, or above that sum. The whole amount of income assessed was 309,572*l.*, of which trade stood for 107,432*l.*, and agriculture for 19,912*l.* Thus the profits of agriculture, on which those of trade depend, are shown to have been scarcely one-fifth of those of the trade which is dependent on or supported by it. This is a not unimportant fact as bearing upon the question of the proportion of the cost of introducing Indian immigrants, which is charged to their actual employers, and to the colony at large.

7. The total expenditure for 1862 amounted to 196,058*l.*, against 188,841*l.* in 1861, showing an increase of 7,217*l.*; but in both years are included extraordinary items defrayed from funds raised by debentures, but brought to the general account as revenue. The expenditure, exclusive of these, may be said to have been about the same in each year, though in 1862 there was an increase both in the fixed establishments, and in the cost of maintaining the Government institutions. The balance in the local treasury available for meeting current expenditure, deposits at call, &c., was, on the last day of 1862, 24,510*l.*; on the last day of 1861 it stood at 6,883*l.* The first collection, therefore, of the income tax, though it may appear to have done little more than make up for shortcomings in other branches of revenue, has, in fact, achieved, to some extent, the totally different object for which it was imposed, that, namely, of keeping the treasury on a level with the growing requirements of the island, which were outstripping the expansion of its existing fiscal system.

8. That this was so, will be seen by comparing the fixed expenditure of the six years ending on the 31st December 1856 with that of the six years ending 31st December 1862.

Fixed Expenditure.

	£
1851	49,966
1852	50,041
1853	53,145
1854	51,744
1855	46,081
1856	46,772
	£297,749

This does not include the immigration establishment previously to 1856. Its cost when added would bring up the whole sum expended in the six years to 302,487*l.*

Fixed Expenditure.

	£
1857	50,347
1858	53,045
1859	56,457
1860	57,657
1861	60,657
1862	64,792
	£342,955

This includes the cost of the immigration establishment.

9. In the same two series of years, the cost of maintaining the Government institutions, hospitals, police, gaol, &c., was as follows:—

	£		£
1851	6,789	1857	10,533
1852	7,033	1858	11,551
1853	7,685	1859	11,511
1854	7,964	1860	11,519
1855	7,553	1861	12,631
1856	8,811	1862	15,959
	£45,835		£73,704

10. A return showing the taxation of the colony for the years 1859, 1860, and 1861, and the average rate of taxation per head of population, was transmitted to your Grace in the latter part of last year. I annex a copy of that return, together with a copy of a similar one for 1862. Taking from these two returns the average for the years 1860, 1861, and 1862, the following are the results:— Encl. 1.

Population			84,438
	£	*s.*	*d.*
Average annual rate of taxation per head from all sources	2	9	3½
Do. do. exclusive of local taxes	2	0	9½
Do. do. exclusive of taxes raised for immigration purposes	1	18	11
Do. do. exclusive of local taxes and taxation raised for immigration purposes	1	10	6
Average annual exported produce for the years 1860, 1861, and 1862, equivalent to 55,804 hogsheads of sugar.			
Average annual proportion which taxation bears to sugar, and other produce, reduced to its equivalent in sugar, per hogshead	3	14	7
Do. do. exclusive of local taxes	3	1	9
Do. do. exclusive of taxes raised for immigration purposes	2	18	11
Do. do. exclusive of local taxes and taxation levied for immigration purposes	2	6	1
Average annual proportion of immigration taxes to exported produce, per hogshead	0	15	7

11. Of the local revenues not accounted for in the general revenue of the colony, those of the ward unions, being mainly derived from land and based upon a triennial assessment, are not subject to fluctuations from the same causes as the general revenue. The returns give 28,402*l.* as their total revenue for 1862, against 26,792 for 1861. The excess arises from the imposition of rates in aid, which are levied from time to time for the repairs of roads in those unions in which, after the preferential charges are defrayed, the balance applicable to roads is found to be insufficient for the purpose. The total expenditure for 1862 was 27,612*l.* against 28,042*l.* in 1861.

12. The returns made by the commissioners for the improvement of the harbour of the Port of Spain, show an expenditure in 1862 of 7,519*l.* against receipts amounting to 7,021*l.* In 1861 the expenditure was 6,239*l.*, and the wharf dues, out of which it is defrayed, produced 6,669*l.* The report of the superintendent of the works, a copy of which is enclosed, gives ample details of the progress of this undertaking. It is one which will take several years more to complete, and further legislation will be requisite to provide for the maintenance and repair of the large extent of wharves with which the town will then be furnished, and for regulating and controlling their use for the convenience of its trade.

13. The authorities of the two incorporated towns of the island, Port of Spain and San Fernando, complain of diminished receipts and augmented calls upon them. The returns furnished for the Blue Book do not bear out this in the case of Port of Spain, even with the explanation annexed, so far, that is, as the receipts are concerned. They are given at 6,884*l.* in 1862 against 6,658*l.* in 1861, and among them the house rate, the principal item of revenue, stands for 4,066*l.* against 3,511*l.* I must presume that in

TRINIDAD.

the former sum are included arrears for the previous year. The expenditure in the two years is returned as follows:—

	£
In 1861 - - -	7,152
„ 1862 - - - -	5,957

but it appears that when the statement was drawn up, claims against the borough were outstanding, which were liquidated shortly afterwards. These will go to swell the expenditure side of the returns for the present year.

14. The returns for the borough of San Fernando exhibit on the face of them a large excess of expenditure over revenue 2,076*l.* against 1,631, and when compared with the returns for 1861, an increase of 300*l.* on the expenditure side, and a decrease of 145*l.* on the revenue side. But here, as in the Port of Spain returns, arrears seem to complicate the account on one side and on the other. Both these municipal bodies have difficulties to contend with, but I may be permitted to express a doubt whether the administration of the boroughs is as well conducted as it would be under a system more resembling that of the ward unions.

15. The investments on account of sinking fund in reduction of the loan of 125,000*l.* taken up by the colony under parliamentary guarantee in 1852 for immigration purposes, amounted at the close of 1862 to 36,674*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, and 26,000*l.* had been redeemed of the further sum of 64,073*l.*, which had already been borrowed for the same purpose in 1848 of the Bank of England. Of the local debt incurred at different times for local improvements, 11,010*l.* had been paid off, leaving 92,400*l.* still due; but of this sum the larger portion, namely, 64,400*l.*, is secured, both as regards interest and principal, upon estates or local revenues, and is only nominally, therefore, a charge upon the general revenue.

16. Immigration from the East, to which so great an impetus was given by means of the former of these two classes of loans, has gone on almost uninterruptedly to the present time. The Agent General of Immigrants, in his annual report, of which I enclose a copy, gives the number of Indians in the island at the close of 1862 at 18,059. These immigrants have drawn in their train at least an equal supply of labour from the neighbouring islands, and it has been calculated that the indenturing of one coolie to an estate provides means of employment for two creole labourers. The staple productions of the colony have been not only kept up, but largely increased by these means; there can be no doubt, therefore, of the remunerative nature, thus far, of the undertaking for which these liabilities were incurred. But it appears that the demand for labour in India itself is very much on the increase, and that migrations from its more densely to its less densely populated districts are taking the place of emigration from its shores. This too has occurred at a time when by the admission of foreign countries to the privilege of recruiting the labour markets of their colonies from British India, great competition for emigrants has arisen.

Encl. 2.

Difficulties in collecting on the spot have now to be encountered which were before unknown, and the cost of doing so has nearly doubled. There is grave cause to fear, therefore, that this source of supply will not much longer be available to the colony. China is naturally looked to to take its place, and it will, probably, before long become a question for serious consideration, whether it would not be advisable to remove the emigration agency of the island from Calcutta to Hong Kong, or some one of the treaty ports in that country.

17. But some portions of these loans of 125,000*l.* and 64,073*l.* were applied to local purposes, more especially to the improvement of the roads and to the establishment of the waterworks, which supply the town of Port of Spain. In addition to the advantages thus obtained, the colony can point to the following, as resulting from the debt which has been specially incurred for local improvements. It has two tramroads running, in their respective localities, through the whole breadth of its cultivated area, from the verge of the uncleared forest to the sea-board. A third is in progress of construction. A large public building near Port of Spain has been erected, suitable for all kinds of public meetings, whether of business or pleasure. A new wing to the lunatic asylum has been built, and above all a thorough system of underground drainage is in course of being carried out in Port of Spain, which will render it the most healthy town in the British West Indies.

18. The public works executed in 1862 cost the colony, excluding the ordinary repairs of existing buildings, about 4,500*l.*, which is less by upwards of 5,000*l.* than was expended under this head in the previous year. The buildings in progress were

the so-called "Prince's Building," already referred to as suitable for public meetings, but which was originally intended for the reception and entertainment of His Royal Highness Prince Alfred; the new wing of the lunatic asylum; the observatory at St. Ann's; and the sewage works of Port of Spain.

19. It will not be out of place to insert here a list of all the public works and buildings with which the colony has been endowed in the six years commencing with 1857, when I had the honour of assuming the government.

Works began before 1857 and completed since.

1.	The new jetty, St. Vincent's wharf, Port of Spain	Completed.
2.	The bridge over the Caroni river	Ditto.
3.	New reservoir, St. Ann's waterworks	Ditto.
4.	The colonial hospital, Port of Spain	Ditto.
5.	Public wash-house	Ditto.
6.	Underground earthenware pipe from the colonial hospital, the public wash-house, and the gaol, to the sea	Ditto.
7.	The lunatic asylum	Ditto.

Works begun in 1857 and subsequent years.

8.	Enclosure of Belmont lands for a Government pasture	Completed.
9.	Public bath-house	Ditto.
10.	Colonial hospital, San Fernando	Ditto.
11.	Iron bridge, St. Juan's river	Ditto.
12.	Iron bridge, St. Joseph's river	Ditto.
13.	Iron bridge, Tacarigua river	Ditto.
14.	Additional main pipe, Maraval waterworks	Ditto.
15.	Public building, Little Savanna	Incomplete but in use.
16.	New wing bonding warehouse, Port of Spain	Completed.
17.	Observatory for meteorological observations, botanic gardens	Completed.
18.	Underground drainage of Port of Spain	In progress.
19.	Sanitary improvements at St. James' Barracks	Ditto.

Of these, Nos. 2, 11, 12, and 13 were partly carried out with private or local funds. The great works for the extension of the wharves and improvement of the harbour of Port of Spain, now in progress, have to be added. Their cost is defrayed by a special tax, levied for the purpose, on packages and live stock, landed on the wharves.

20. During the same period, the following buildings have become Government property by purchase, and been adapted to the several objects for which they are used.

1. Barracks in Port of Spain, occupied by the West India Troops.
2. Bonding warehouse, San Fernando.
3. Police station, Arima.
4. Ditto, Santa Cruz.
5. Ditto, La Brea

21. Your Grace possesses every information with regard to the works still to be executed, the chief of which are the Governor's residence, and a court-house and gaol, at San Fernando. To these it will soon become necessary to add a building for the use of the Queen's Collegiate School in Port of Spain. Its pupils are increasing so much that they are likely soon to exceed the number for which accommodation is found in the hired premises now occupied by the school.

22. The first examination for exhibitions since the opening of this school was held in December last. I annex copies of the Principal's annual report, and of the reports of the Examiners, who speak in the highest terms of the soundness and ability of the teaching given, and of the knowledge shown by the boys, which they consider would do credit to any public school in England. The exhibitions offered by the colony are two in each year of the value of 150*l.* each, tenable for three years at any university in Great Britain or Ireland. The conditions are, that the competitors should have gone through a curriculum of three years at least at the school, and that the winners should have passed their seventeenth year. Encl. 3.

23. There is no institution of the colony to whose influence on its future welfare and character I look forward with greater interest than to this. While others have for their object the promotion of the material good of the community, or the relief of the physical

TRINIDAD.

Encl. 4.

evils which beset it, this one deals with its growth as a society. It is the complement to and completion of the system of general education which has been in operation since 1852, and which the Inspector of Schools asserts at the close of his annual report, a copy of which is enclosed, is raising up a middle class of intelligence, and with new impulses to industry, which is destined to form an important element in the future condition of the colony. In richer and more advanced countries it may be safely left to private exertions to provide for the education of the classes which are above this, but it has been thought to be the duty and interest of the State, if I may use so imposing a word, in this young country to take care that, while those who occupy the lower ranks of social standing rise higher in the scale of intelligence and instruction, its higher classes shall not want the means and opportunity of maintaining and improving their position. Before this school was established there was really a fear that they would sink to a lower grade. There is every hope now, however, that the moral and intellectual advancement of all classes will keep pace with that enlargement of the agriculture and commerce of the colony which, notwithstanding the present temporary depression under which it is labouring, may be confidently expected to go on.

24. I have the honour, in conclusion, to enclose to your Grace copies of reports on the Post Office and on the Coolie Orphan Asylum at Tacarigua, and a Return of the Prisoners sent to the Royal Gaol in 1862, which do not seem to call for any special comment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

INCOME TAX, 1862.

A Classified Return of the Duties assessed under Schedules A., B., C., and D.

Source of Income.	Schedule.	Amount of Income on which Duty is Assessed.	Amount of Duty under each Classification.	Amount of Duty under each Schedule.	Schedule.	
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Public Offices -	A*	52,335 1 4	—	1,635 9 5	A*	* Return under this Schedule for 11 months only.
Government Debentures	B	4,582 5 4	—	143 3 11	B	
House Property -	C	42,538 5 4	—	1,329 6 5	C	
Professions - - -	D†	21,242 2 8	663 16 4	—		† The Church of England and the Roman Catholic Clergy not included under this classification, but returned under Schedule A.
Trade - - -	D	107,432 0 0	3,357 5 0	—		
Employments - -	D	56,148 8 0	1,754 12 9	—		
Plantations, Sugar -	D	11,512 13 4	359 15 5	—		
Plantations, Cocoa -	D	8,399 6 8	262 9 7	—		
Corporations - -	D	5,382 8 0	168 4 0	6,566 3 1	D	
Total -		309,572 10 8	—	9,674 2 10		
Abatements for Life Insurances -				151 18 7		
Total Duty -				9,522 4 3		

INCOME TAX, 1862.

A Classified Statement of Incomes Returned under Schedules C. and D.

Incomes of 100*l.*	Above 100*l.* and not exceeding 150*l.*	Above 150*l.* and not exceeding 200*l.*	Above 200*l.* and not exceeding 300*l.*	Above 300*l.* and not exceeding 400*l.*	Above 400*l.* and not exceeding 500*l.*	Above 500*l.* and not exceeding 600*l.*	Above 600*l.* and not exceeding 700*l.*	Above 700*l.* and not exceeding 800*l.*	Above 800*l.* and not exceeding 900*l.*	Above 900*l.* and not exceeding 1000*l.*	Above 1000*l.* and upwards.
45, and under 100*l.* 37	171	96	132	38	23	16	8	7	6	8	44

Office of Assessed Taxes,
25th February 1863.

(Signed) HY. A. FITT,
Commissioner.

TRINIDAD.

RETURN showing the Taxation of the Colony for the Years 1859, 1860, and 1861, the average Taxation per annum, the average annual rate of Taxation per head, and the average annual proportion which Taxation bears to Sugar and other produce reduced in its equivalent in Sugar, per hogshead, for the same Years:—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE for 1859		167,385 15 2½
Less the following sums, which form no part of taxation applied to general revenue, viz.:—		
For Land sales	326 10 0	
„ Land revenue	260 3 0	
* „ Sale of government property	4,563 10 8	
† „ Fees per colonial hospital	1,696 8 9	
† „ „ San Fernando hospital	353 13 9½	
† „ „ Leper asylum	195 7 6	
„ Coffins sold, hire of prisoners, &c., royal gaol	123 12 4	
„ Fees per model school	20 2 1	
„ „ female school	55 2 1	
„ Wash-house dues	242 7 1	
„ Public bath dues	56 0 1	
„ Gunpowder dues	55 18 8½	
‡ „ Contribution of wards towards general police	2,022 2 6	
‡ „ „ royal road debt	977 11 9	
„ Fees per Queen's collegiate school	301 0 0	
„ Instalment San Fernando wharf	300 0 0	
„ Books for ward schools	51 11 9½	
„ Repayment of loan per owners of steamers	450 0 0	
„ Loan from wards	7,000 0 0	
„ Refund of salaries overpaid, contract passages per steamer, &c.	506 12 0	
„ Interest on tramroad debentures, the property of the government, and on deposits "depôt chest"	298 14 8	
„ Irois forest	429 6 5	
„ Saw mill	593 5 0	
		20,879 3 2½
Total taxation for 1859		£146,506 12 0
Less immigration		46,093 7 3
Taxation, less amount raised for immigration purposes for 1859		£100,413 4 9

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE for 1860		184,861 6 10
Less the following sums, which form no part of taxation applied to general revenue, viz.:—		
For Land sales	600 10 7	
„ Land revenue	1,758 19 0½	
„ Sale of government property (tramroad debentures, the property of the Colonial Government, &c.)	788 8 8	
„ Fees per colonial hospital	1,283 1 6	
„ „ leper asylum	82 15 8	
„ „ San Fernando hospital	595 18 7½	
„ Coffins sold, hire of prisoners, &c., royal gaol	141 8 9	
„ Fees per Queen's Collegiate school	624 15 10	
„ „ Model schools, boys	17 5 10	
„ „ „ girls	55 16 8	
„ Gunpowder	81 0 8	
„ Contribution from wards to general police	2,111 8 3½	
„ „ towards royal roads debt	977 13 9	
„ Instalment San Fernando wharf	300 0 0	
„ Repayment of loan per owners of steamer	1,800 0 0	
„ Contract passages per steamer, &c.	283 16 9½	
„ Interest on tramroad debentures, the property of the Colonial Government, on deposit depôt chest, &c.	194 5 0	
„ Irois forest	442 12 6½	
„ Saw mill	236 8 3	
„ Wash house and bath house dues	317 7 9	
		12,693 14 2½
Total taxation for 1860		£172,167 12 7½
Less immigration		66,355 0 8
Taxation, less amount raised for immigration purposes for 1860		£105,812 11 11½

* Principally the sale of tramroad debentures, the property of the Colonial Government.

† These fees cannot be said to be taxation under general revenue, because the paupers from the wards and the Borough Council are paid for from the taxation under the head of "Local Revenues," and in many instances the fees are paid by merchants and owners of estates.

‡ Paid from the taxation raised under "Local Revenues."

TRINIDAD.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE for 1861				171,729	15	5½
*Wharfage under Ordinances No. 22 of 1858, and 22 of 1861				6,669	13	8
				£178,399	9	1½
Less the following sums, which form no part of taxation applied to general revenue, viz.:—						
For Land sales	179	2	4½			
„ Land revenue	168	5	1½			
„ Sale of government property (tramroad debentures the property of the Colonial Government, &c.)	219	0	7			
„ Fees per Colonial hospital	1,202	15	6½			
„ „ San Fernando hospital	596	9	9½			
„ „ leper asylum	157	0	0			
„ Coffins sold, hire of prisoners, &c., Royal Gaol	213	5	10			
„ Fees per Queen's Collegiate School	652	12	1			
„ „ boys' Model School	41	4	10			
„ „ girls' „	55	12	6			
„ Gunpowder dues	139	10	6½			
„ Repayment of loan per owner of steamer	1,800	0	0			
„ Contributions of wards towards general police	2,107	10	1			
„ „ „ Royal Roads debt	977	13	9			
† „ Instalment on account of advances made to Tacarigua and St. Ann's Road Unions for bridges	1,100	0	0			
„ Refund of salaries per Receiver General	10	13	6			
„ Irois forest	870	2	3½			
„ Saw mill	236	4	11½			
„ Wash house and bath house dues	298	10	8			
				11,025	15	0
Total taxation for 1861				£167,373	14	1½
Less immigration				26,048	2	2½
Taxation, less amount raised for immigration purposes for 1861				£141,325	11	11

Taxation raised under the head of General Revenue for 1859				£146,506
Ditto	ditto	for 1860		172,167
Ditto	ditto	for 1861		167,373
Taxation raised under the head of Local Revenues for 1859				32,049
Ditto	ditto	for 1860		35,286
Ditto	ditto	for 1861		35,229
Taxation from all sources for the three years 1859, 1860, and 1861				£588,610
Annual average of all sources for the three years 1859, 1860, and 1861				£196,203
Taxation for 1859, 1860, and 1861, exclusive of local taxes				486,046
Annual average of 1859, 1860, and 1861, exclusive of local taxes				162,015
Taxation for 1859, 1860, and 1861, less the taxation levied for immigration purposes				450,114
Annual average of 1859, 1860, and 1861, less the taxation levied for immigration purposes				150,031
Taxation for 1859, 1860, and 1861, exclusive of local taxes, and taxes levied for immigration purposes				347,550
Annual average of 1859, 1860, and 1861, exclusive of local taxes, and taxes levied for immigration purposes				115,850

POPULATION, 84,438.

Average annual rate of taxation per head, from all sources			£2	6 6
Ditto	ditto	exclusion of local taxes	1	18 4½
Ditto	ditto	exclusive of taxes raised for immigration purposes	1	15 6
Ditto	ditto	exclusive of local taxes, and taxation levied for immigration purposes	1	7 5

Produce of the year 1859, equivalent to		60,807	hogsheads of sugar.
Ditto 1860,	ditto	52,209	ditto.
Ditto 1861,	ditto	54,904	ditto.
Produce for 1859, 1860, and 1861, equivalent to		167,920	ditto.

Average annual produce for the years 1859, 1860, and 1861, equivalent to 55,973 hogsheads of sugar.

Average taxation per annum from all sources			£196,203
Ditto	ditto	exclusive of local taxes	162,015
Ditto	ditto	exclusive of taxes raised for immigration purposes	150,038
Ditto	ditto	exclusive of local taxes and taxation levied for immigration purposes	115,850

* This is included in the General Revenue of 1859 and 1860.

† Paid from the taxation raised under "Local Revenues."

	£	s.	d.
Average annual proportion which taxation bears to sugar and other produce reduced to its equivalent in sugar, per hogshead, for the years 1859, 1860, and 1861	3	10	1
Ditto ditto exclusive of local taxes	2	17	10
Ditto ditto exclusive of taxes raised for immigration purposes	2	13	7
Ditto ditto exclusive of local taxes and taxation levied for immigration purposes	2	1	4½
Average annual proportion of immigration taxes to produce, per hogshead	0	16	6

RETURN showing the Taxation of the Colony for the Year 1862, the average Rate of Taxation per Head, and the proportion which Taxation bears to Sugar and other Produce reduced to its equivalent in Sugar, per Hogshead, for the same Year.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total General Revenue for 1862	199,372	8	5			
Wharfage under Ordinance No. 22, of 1858, and 22 of 1861	7,201	17	4½			
				206,574	5	9½
Less the following sums which form no part of taxation applied to General Revenue, viz. :—						
For amount of deposits by return coolies wrongly placed to immigration	2,692	1	9			
„ Charter party penalty re the "Wacousta"	500	0	0			
„ Payment on account of balance due by late immigration agent at Calcutta	100	0	0			
„ Land sales	137	15	0			
„ Land revenue	124	0	8			
„ Sale of Government property	266	14	6½			
„ Fees per Colonial Hospital	1,774	3	11			
„ „ San Fernando Hospital	1,246	16	2½			
„ „ Leper Asylum	264	1	0			
„ Coffins sold, hire of prisoners, &c., Royal Gaol	682	5	0			
„ Fees per Queen's Collegiate School	714	10	2			
„ „ Boys' Model School	30	5	7½			
„ „ Girls' do.	61	13	4			
„ Gunpowder dues	79	6	0½			
„ Sale of "Laws of Trinidad"	3	3	0			
„ „ "Colonial Office List"	3	7	0			
„ Contributions from wards towards general police	2,144	12	2			
„ Books furnished to ward schools	160	1	10½			
„ Repayment of advances made in England	20	0	0			
„ Sale of gunpowder seized	48	15	8½			
„ „ wood recovered from wreck	157	15	10			
„ Interest on South Naparima Western Ward debentures	117	10	0			
„ „ South Naparima Western Road Union do.	162	0	0			
„ „ dividend on Reduced 3 per cents.	1,036	5	7			
„ „ Exchequer bills	25	19	9			
„ Irois Forest	708	4	10½			
„ Saw mill	430	9	8			
„ Wash-house and bath-house dues	262	9	10			
„ Ward road advances—rent charge	303	9	2½			
„ Contributions from wards towards repayment of royal road debt	977	13	9			
„ Instalment on account of San Fernando wharf	300	0	0			
„ Repayment of loan, per owners of steamer	950	0	0			
„ Instalment on account of advances made to Tacarigua and St. Ann's Road Unions for bridges	1,100	0	0			
„ Commissioners of the Cipero Tramroad	3,654	18	11			
„ „ „ Chaguanas do.	448	0	0			
„ South Naparima Western Road Union	300	0	0			
„ Tramroad debentures	7,000	0	0			
				28,988	10	5
Total taxation for 1862				177,585	15	4½
Less immigration 41,65 *l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, from which deduct 500*l.* Charter Party penalty, re the "Wacousta," 100*l.* payment on account of balance due by the late Emigration Agent at Calcutta, and 2,692*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* deposits by return coolies wrongly placed to immigration				38,359	7	9
Taxation, less amount raised for immigration purposes in 1862				139,226	7	7½
Taxation raised under the head of General Revenue for 1862				177,585	0	0
„ under the head of Local Revenue for 1862				36,917	0	0
Total taxation from all sources for 1862				214,502	0	0

TRINIDAD.

	£	s.	d.
Taxation for 1862, exclusive of Local Taxes	177,585	0	0
Taxation for 1862, less the taxation levied for immigration purposes	176,143	0	0
Taxation for 1862, exclusive of local taxes and taxes levied for immigration purposes	139,226	0	0

POPULATION, 84,438.

Average rate of taxation per head from all sources	2	10	9½
Do. do. exclusive of local taxes	2	2	0½
Do. do. exclusive of taxes raised for immigration purposes	2	1	8½
Do. do. exclusive of local taxes and taxes raised for immigration purposes	1	12	11½

PRODUCE FOR THE YEAR 1862, EQUIVALENT TO 60,300 HOGSHEADS OF SUGAR.

Proportion which taxation bears to sugar and other produce reduced to its equivalent in sugar, per hogshead, for 1862	3	11	1½
Do. do. exclusive of local taxes	2	18	10
Do. do. exclusive of taxes raised for immigration purposes	2	18	5
Do. do. exclusive of local taxes and taxes raised for immigration purposes	2	6	2
Proportion of immigration taxes to produce, per hogshead	0	12	8½

R. RUSSELL, Auditor General.

Enclosure 2 in No. 5.

REPORT of the AGENT GENERAL of IMMIGRANTS for the Year 1862.

Sir, Immigration Office, February 1, 1863.

IN compliance with the 14th clause of Ordinance No. 16 of 1862, I beg leave to submit to his Excellency and the Legislative Council, the appended abstract of the numbers, increase and decrease of immigrants in this colony as shown by the estates' quarterly returns for the year 1862, together with a few general remarks on immigration:—

1. The Chinese of former arrivals in Trinidad may be now considered as having almost entirely merged into the general population, while the place they once occupied in estates' agriculture has been, to a certain extent, filled this last year by a fresh arrival from Hong Kong. 466 adults per ship "Wanata" were landed here in July; of these 320 were men, the remainder women, and some half dozen children.

2. Taken as a whole they were much inferior in physical appearance to the Chinese of 1853, comparatively few being from the agricultural districts round Amoy and Swatow; the majority were from Canton and the neighbourhood of Hong Kong. They had, however, the advantages over the former of being peaceful and well disposed in themselves, and in meeting here on their arrival with fellow-countrymen accustomed to the habits and languages of the colony.

3. The mortality they encountered on the passage from China, as mentioned at the time in a special report, was considerable, and their arrival here during a remarkably wet season, which has continued through the fall with scarcely any intermission, has exercised an unfavourable influence on the result of their field labour.

4. The length of passage, five months, and in many instances previous want of habit, incapacitated them from earning by agricultural toil a sufficiency for self-support. Under these circumstances they have, for the most part, repudiated the wives whom they picked up at Hong Kong, more with a view of sharing in, or appropriating their advance money than with any intention of permanent connexion. These unfortunate females, bound by no indenture, have been thus thrown for support on most precarious resources. They do not, as a rule, appear willing to work, although many are physically able. Some have found employment among their previously settled countrymen, others have found a temporary asylum in the public hospitals, while the balance remain on the estates whither they were originally sent, working little and eking out a bare existence in doubtful ways. With the dry weather of next crop they will probably find suitable occupation during the manufacture of sugar on estates, or light labour in the corn and potatoe fields, which have lately assumed large dimensions under the culture of the older Chinese.

Notwithstanding the depressing influence of want and wet, the casualties among the Chinese have been comparatively few; 38 men and 20 women, 1 girl and 1 infant, make up the total from 11th July to date.

During the last month favourable weather has produced a marked improvement on the health, and, consequently, an increase in the amount of work performed by these immigrants, and some proprietors speak hopefully of their future prospects. The prevailing impression is, that much sickness and misery might have been avoided had the passengers by the "Wanata" left Hong Kong so as to have landed here in January or February.

5. One result not to be overlooked of this temporarily depressed standard of health is, the utter inability of the Chinese to repay from the surplus of their earnings the advances made to them at Hong Kong, thus rendering the third paragraph of the 6th clause of Ordinance No. 16 of 1862 inoperative. This clause, which enacts that each man should have one dollar monthly deducted from his wages towards repaying his advance received at Hong Kong, if enforced would, in most cases, reduce them to the brink of starvation. In Demerara experience lays down two years as the term within which the labourer is supposed capable of making this repayment, and the employer is consequently allowed that period to make the necessary deduction from his wages. In this colony, as I had occasion to remark in 1857, experience is entirely adverse to any such exaction, and I still adhere to the opinion then expressed, that if immigrant labourers are to commence their industrial career with this millstone

round their neck, it would be liberal policy to allow such as had been unable to repay their advances during the period of contract to compound for its settlement by eventually serving another year, on which the employer should pay the indenture fees into the Treasury.

There is reason to believe that suicide has been resorted to occasionally as a desirable mode of terminating the industrial contract and repaying the advance.

6. Annexed will be found a detailed list, as required by instructions of date 14th July 1862, of such deaths as have been verified among the passengers per "Wanata" during their voyage from Hong Kong and their residence here up to 31st December 1862. The numbers by which they were registered on embarkation have been also entered in such a manner as to satisfy the inquiries of their friends or relatives in China.

7. With regard to the African element in our immigration, it is not to be disguised, that although the arrivals from Sierra Leone and St. Helena in 1860 were numerous (761), and the change most advantageous to the liberated Africans themselves, their introduction was of little permanent benefit to those who paid the stamp duty on their assignment. Few estates have retained beyond a fraction of their original allotments, while nearly all the adults, to whomsoever assigned, have long since decamped. There is but one exception to this unpromising view, and that one of sufficient prominence to be recorded. On the "Perseverance" and "St. John" estates at Cedros, out of 64 Africans originally assigned in 1860, only 2 have died; one from small pox, and the other from the consequences of an accident; the remainder, principally children, are in remarkably good order, and appear by the estates' books to average a much higher amount of work and wages than Indian immigrants of the same standing.

The success in the present instance is, no doubt, due to the personal superintendence of the honourable gentleman who manages these estates; but it might be imprudent to base any future demand for African labourers on the chance of similar exceptional results elsewhere, at least till more efficient means are organized than those which now exist for the repression of vagabondage. It may be here stated that many of the Africans resort to the neighbouring coast of the Spanish Main.

8. The Indian immigration requires little comment beyond what is recorded in its own portion of the annexed tables. The mortality at sea, which has gradually diminished during the last three years, had, in 1862, reached the very low figure of 4 per cent., and the immigrants were generally landed in fine order, due to the increased care they received while in depôt and on board. Their value, however, as labourers has not corresponded to their appearance, and the prevalent opinion is, that the stamina of the Indian labourer has declined considerably of late years, and that he neither takes as quickly nor as kindly now to his work as he did formerly. This view is, to some extent, borne out by the rate of mortality among the newly arrived, as compared with the same class in former years.

The deaths during 1862 among immigrants of that year's introduction were 156 on 1,450, slightly over 9 per cent. The total mortality among all indentured immigrants of previous introduction during the same period being 232 on 7,770 or somewhat under 3 per cent. In this last per-centage, immigrants from Madras and Calcutta are alike included, as when once seasoned to the climate they enjoy nearly equal immunity from sickness. The absentees belong for the most part to that class of old immigrants who have renewed their contracts, or to the same class of new immigrants who swell the list of casualties. Many of them still abscond to the Spanish Main, although the wretched condition of such as have lately returned should deter others from the same course.

9. There have been no return coolies to Calcutta during the last year, nor has any indication of desire of change appeared among them beyond the fact that 241 have purchased their remaining balance of time as against 60 in the preceding year.

This is an unusual increase, and should it continue, may perhaps afford grounds for reconsidering the basis on which 3*l.* was fixed as the redemption price for each unexpired year of the contract. It was so fixed because that sum was taken to represent one fifth of the passage money and other expenses attending the coolie's introduction, but of late years the aggregate of these expenses has gradually risen to between 20*l.* and 21*l.*, and this increase indicates a corresponding loss to the colony of 482*l.* on the purchase of time by these 241 immigrants. Although the aggregate of coolies who have terminated their contract has been thus greatly increased by those purchasing balance of time, the number entering into fresh contracts has diminished from 1,242 in 1861 to 1,144 in 1862. This is a fact of some importance, and of unfavourable import if viewed as indicating repugnance to labour on the part of the immigrant; but it may be more satisfactorily attributed to the occasionally higher wages received by the un-indentured servant, and the excusable desire of the immigrant to free himself as soon as possible from a contract which, under the present ordinance, not only enforces the repayment of all time lost by wilful absence as in the original regulations, but inflicts an additional fine of 2*s.* 6*d.* for each day so lost. This disinclination to renew a contract once terminated may also be in some measure due to the distressed condition of the planting interest leading each individual to stricter enforcement of existing arrangements, both as regards the quantity and quality of labour to be performed under them.

Contract labour taken by itself, without regard to its continuity, is dearer than common labour, and those who employ it must, in self-defence, as the price of their staple falls, be proportionately vigilant in securing the utmost return for their bounty money. These causes, coupled with the usual influx of hands from the other islands (2,415), sufficiently account for the diminishing number of old immigrants who renew their contracts.

10. The applications for coolies for 1863, under these influences and the unexampled low prices of the different staples, fell to 1,200, yet the revenue on account of indenture fees, much to the credit of the planting body, was paid into the Treasury with the same punctuality which marked the preceding year.

11. In estimating the number of children, I have found it unsafe to trust entirely to the returns, which, in many instances, omit to enter them, as forming no part of their effective roll. I have, therefore, taken last year's list of coolies under ten years, which was the result of a special inquiry, and added thereto the increase by birth and introduction, which gives a total of 4,219 for 1862.

12. The number of days lost by wilful absence during the twelve months is 511,641, as against 742,971 in 1861, or about 30 per cent. less.

TRINIDAD.

This improvement is, no doubt, due to the increased value of labour as measured by the restricted means of the employer, and marks unmistakeably the superiority of self-interest to external influences in promoting industry.

13. The number of labourers who arrived in Trinidad from the other West Indian islands during the year 1862 is about the usual average, 2,415, of whom 127 returned; this is exclusive of those who entered at the port of San Fernando. Notwithstanding this great yearly increase, it is only within the last few months that its result has been perceptible on estates in the increased facility of obtaining labour.

14. The mortality for the year 1862 on the total number of Indian immigrants of all ages and classes in this colony has been 492 on 18,347, or 2·6 per cent., being 5 per cent. over that of the preceding year, and apparently due to similar causes.

15. During the six months ending 31st January 96 estates were inspected by the agent general. Of these 31 were twice visited, besides 16 trips on special duty to different stations, while during the immediately preceding six months 35 estates were inspected, which were for the most part within such distance from town as allowed returning on the same, or at furthest the next day. These visits of inspection during the six months ending 31st January occupied more than 50 out of 150 working days, and this frequent absence of the Agent General from town, even in the wet season, was productive of inconvenience to the service of the department, and disappointment to parties who came from distant quarters for advice; while during the crop season, and the month which immediately precedes it, the arrival of ships, with the distribution of their freights, and the collection of the immigration revenue, for which the Agent General is personally responsible, requires his almost continuous supervision in town. For these and other reasons, which it is unnecessary to recapitulate, I pointed out in the annual report for the preceding year, that an efficient system of visiting estates is incompatible with a satisfactory control of the other duties of this department; and when the clause of the present ordinance which throws the whole of the inspection personally on the Agent General was discussed in committee, I tried to convince the other members of the Legislative Council of the fact, which experience had long since forced on me, that here, as in the other large colonies, a system of local inquiry might, with great propriety, be vested in the Supervisors or other resident officers who, already in the daily discharge of duty, ride over their districts more frequently than could be required for any purposes of inspection. I regret that my opinion, supported as it was by his Excellency's suggestion to provide additional assistance, proved of no avail in modifying the clause in question. The Order in Council by which the appointment of Agent General of Immigrants was created in 1839 seems to infer some provision of this kind, from the fact, that although at that time the emoluments and duties were alike moderate, it was still deemed necessary to restrict the Agent's residence to the town of Port of Spain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY MITCHELL,
Agent General of Immigrants.

The Hon. Sir Charles H. J. Cuyler, Bart.
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 3 in No. 5.

REPORT of the Queen's Collegiate School, for the year 1862.

Queen's Collegiate School,
March 26, 1863.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor, the following report in reference to the Queen's Collegiate School.

The number of pupils during the term ending December 13, 1862, was 56.

Since my last report an addition has been made to the staff of the school by the appointment of M. Van Schalkwyck as French master. The French had previously been under the direction of Mr. Caird, as it had been very wisely determined not to appoint any occasional masters till the working of the school was thoroughly organized. M. Van Schalkwyck entered upon his duties in August last, and from the zeal and industry he displays I hope for favourable results.

The Syndicate appointed by the University of Cambridge to regulate the examinations of students who are not members of the University, have most liberally consented to admit the pupils of the Queen's Collegiate School to their examinations. There are two examinations held every year (at the same time), one for students under 16 years, and one for those under 18. The following are the regulations regarding them:—

"After each examination the names of the students who pass with credit will be placed alphabetically
" in three honour classes, and the names of those who pass to the satisfaction of the examiners, yet not
" so as to deserve honours, will be placed alphabetically in a separate class. Marks of distinction will
" be attached to the name of any candidate who may specially distinguish himself in particular parts of
" the examination. After the name of every student will be added his place of residence, the school
" (if any) from which he comes to attend the examination, and the name of his schoolmaster.

" In determining the classes, account will be taken of every part of the examination; but no credit
" will be given for knowledge in any section, unless the student shows enough to satisfy the examiners
" in that section. Regard will be paid to the handwriting and spelling throughout the examinations.

" The students who pass with credit, or satisfy the examiners, will also be entitled to receive certifi-
" cates to that effect. Every certificate will specify the subjects in which the student has passed with
" credit, or satisfied the examiners, and the class in which his name is placed.

" Every one admitted to examination will be required to pay a fee of twenty shillings."

A slight inconvenience may arise from the fact that the examination papers will probably not arrive here till our term has ended; but the advantages offered are, in my opinion, so great, that I hope, if necessary when the time comes, to be able to suggest a plan by which the difficulty may be overcome. Boys from all parts of England go in for these examinations, and there are few who would not feel a

praiseworthy satisfaction in appearing high in a list open to all England under 18 or 16 years of age. Most boys are inclined to look upon the highest class in the school to which they belong as the summit of their ambition, unless some higher standard is brought definitely before them; such a standard is offered by these examinations. The certificates issued by the examiners to the successful candidates are valuable testimonials of the thoroughness of their training, and the reach of their abilities. Formal notice is taken of these certificates in the regulations of the councils presiding over the great professions. Students who have obtained them are exempted by the General Council for Medical Education from any other preliminary examination, and by the Commissioners for regulating the examination of persons proposing to enter into articles of clerkship to attorneys or solicitors from any further examination in general studies. In order to give these examinations a definite place in the working of the school, I recommend that in future the exhibitions should be decided by them.

The first exhibition examination was held in December last. The examiners were the Reverend W. M. Campion, B.D., fellow and tutor of Queen's College, Cambridge, and the Reverend E. H. Perowne, B.D., fellow and tutor of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. There were four candidates: the order determined by the examination was, 1. Cadiz; 2. Bowen; 3. Fabien; 4. Mitchell. I append the reports of the examiners. I should wish to direct the particular attention of his Excellency to these reports, as emanating from two of the most competent judges that could be selected from the English universities, and as rendering any remarks from me on the nature of the instruction given at the school unnecessary.

I have, &c.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

H. DEIGHTON, M.A.
Principal.

Enclosure 4 in No. 5.

REPORT on the Scholarship Examination of the Government School, Trinidad.

I examined the candidates in mathematics. The knowledge which they exhibited reflects great credit both on themselves and on their teachers. I consider it quite equal to that exhibited by boys educated at good public schools in England.

Bowen and Cadiz deserve especial commendation for their mathematical work. Bowen evinced considerable power in dealing with arithmetical questions, as well as clearness and accuracy. His performance in algebra was also very good. Cadiz's Euclid was good, and his arithmetic very good; but his algebra and trigonometry was not quite such as his performance in Euclid and arithmetic led me to expect from him.

I was much pleased to find that all the boys showed a sound knowledge of the principles of the subjects in which they were examined. In this branch they were above the average of boys from English schools.

Mr. Perowne has described at length the very satisfactory nature of the classical examination.

I also examined the candidates in English, and I have to report that the questions set were answered extremely well. The subject was ably handled.

A friend of mine who set the French paper reports to me that the performance was creditable.

WILLIAM MAGAN CAMPION, B.D.,
Fellow and Tutor of Queen's College, Cambridge, and Examiner for the Mathematical Tripos in 1853, 1857, 1858, 1859.

Queen's College, 27th February 1863.

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge,
February 19, 1863.

DEAR SIR,

HAVING completed the examination of your pupils in the classical subjects proposed by you, I beg to submit the result of the examination, as represented by the number of marks assigned to each pupil in the several subjects. I have so arranged the maximum of marks for each paper, as to allow the three Latin papers the same aggregate value as the two Greek papers. At the same time I have thought it desirable to place before you a detailed statement, by which you could judge of the degree of proficiency displayed by each candidate in the several subjects. I observe that in Plato, only one boy does any translation. For this you will doubtless be able to account. I venture to call attention to it, as materially affecting the marks gained on that paper.

I have had great satisfaction in conducting this portion of the examination. The papers sent in show an amount of knowledge, accuracy, and taste, which, while highly honourable to the pupils, testifies abundantly to the soundness and ability of the teaching they have enjoyed. Your pupils' work would contrast most favourably with that of any school in England with which I am acquainted.

I cannot conclude without offering you my congratulations on the success which has attended your efforts as an instructor of youth. Pardon me for saying that such teaching, while an invaluable benefit to your pupils and the colony at large, reflects honour upon the university of which we are both members.

I am, &c.

EDWD. HY. PEROWNE, B.D.
Fellow and Tutor of Corpus Christ College, Cambridge, Examiner for the Classical Tripos in 1854, 1855, 1859, 1862, 1863.

TRINIDAD.

List of the pupils at the Queen's Collegiate School, during the Term ending December 13, 1862. The order in the different divisions is that determined by the examination held at the end of the Term:

FIRST CLASS.

1st Division.	*2nd Division.*
Cadiz.	Rat.
Bowen.	Mitchell, J.
Mitchell, H.	Beichmann.
Fabien.	Brodie.
Harragin.	Pasea.
	Elie.
	O'Brien.
	Bourne.
	Boissiere.
	Stone.
	Lacroix.
	Wight, Joell } Absent from illness.

SECOND CLASS.

1st Division.	*2nd Division.*
Eccles, W.	Knox, G.
Langton.	Stewart.
Fuller.	Knox, C.
Park.	Alston.
Stone.	White.
Leotaud.	Eccles, R.
Bowen—not placed on account of his long absence from illness.	Mitchell.
	Fitt.
	Eccles, J.
	Eccles, G.

THIRD CLASS.

1st Division.	*2nd Division.*
Eckel, E.	Hearn.
Wight.	Maingot.
Brodie.	Roget.
Lack.	Latour.
Brereton, A.	Black.
Eckel, A.	Alston, G.
Fabien.	Brereton, H.
Pantin.	Laughlin.
Alston, J.	
Ross.	
Devenish, B.	
Devenish, W.	
Knowles.	

GOVERNMENT SCHOOL, TRINIDAD.

Scholarship Examination, 1863.

	Full Marks.	Bowen.	Cadiz.	Fabien.	Mitchell.
Classics - - -	620	306	476	315	243
Mathematics - -	600	408	382	276	311
English - - -	150	101	114	101	106
French - - -	150	95	108	69	78
Total - -	1520	910	1080	761	738

Names arranged in order of merit.

Cadiz - - - -	1080
Bowen - - - -	910
Fabien - - - -	761
Mitchell - - - -	738

W. M. CAMPION,
Examiner.

REPORT on the COOLIE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

SIR,

Tacarigua, April 30, 1863.

I BEG to submit, for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor, the following report of the Coolie Orphan Asylum Committee at the meeting held this day.

When the Coolie Orphan Asylum Committee presented their report for 1861, the additions to the asylum, which the liberality of the Government, aided by the contributions of proprietors and others interested in the work, had enabled them to undertake, had not been completed. Since then the work has been finished, and they have now accommodation sufficient for 80 orphans.

The number of orphans on the list at the end of December 1862 amounted to 59. During the year three orphans were received into the asylum, two died, and four went out into service.

The course of instruction has been the same as heretofore; and the conduct of the orphans has been in every way satisfactory.

The committee thankfully acknowledge the liberality that they receive from the Government. Without this, it would be impossible for them to continue their labours. They also gratefully acknowledge the continued interest in the institution manifested by his Excellency, and they trust that its ultimate success will be such as to fully satisfy all who have exerted themselves to render it efficient for the purposes for which it was established.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY RICHARDS,
Secretary of C. O. A. Committee.

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 115.)

Government House, Demerara,
June 29, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace the British Guiana Blue Book for the year 1862, and to submit the following remarks as my report thereon :—

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The estimated revenue for the year 1862 was 300,768*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, being about the amount realized in 1861. The actual receipts were 285,581*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* I may observe that the customs revenue of 1862, though less than in 1861, was fully equal to the average of the preceding five years; and but for the short importation of some manufactured articles, principally cotton goods, would have been considerably above it. The estimated expenditure for the year 1862 was 300,509*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, but the actual amount was 310,505*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* To the excess must be added about 7,000*l.*, to cover items on the estimate not yet expended. The excess of expenditure is to be attributed to the cost of immigration, particularly that from China, which was much greater than what was contemplated. The excess under this head was upwards of 15,000*l.* Although the expenditure in 1862 exceeded the estimate, it is less than that of the two years preceding. The expenditure of 1860 was 314,863*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, that of 1861 was 325,032*l.* 8*s.* 0½*d.*, and that of 1862 was 310,505*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* The consequence of the deficient revenue and excessive expenditure, to which I have adverted, is, that the estimate of the present year has had to be charged with a deficiency of rather more than 30,000*l.*

3. *Public Debt.*

The amount of the debt for which the colony was liable at the close of 1862 was 588,929*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, being in excess of the debt, at the close of 1861, by 12,430*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* The immigration debt, secured by planter notes, payable at intervals not exceeding five years, had been increased by 32,700*l.*, while on the other hand, 20,000*l.* of the debt, due to the Imperial Government, had been paid off. The arrangements for the debt are on the whole very satisfactory, as a sufficient sinking fund has been provided for the

redemption, when due in 1874, of the entire amount for which the Imperial Government is responsible. The other portion of the debt is fluctuating, as it depends on the extent of the immigration in each season.

Public Works.

4. I have but little information to communicate under this head. The progress of the sea defences is as satisfactory as can be expected, considering the very limited amount of the annual vote. The work has been executed in a most substantial manner, and has been tested on more than one occasion by very high tides without giving way.

Legislation.

5. 31 Ordinances were enacted during the year 1862. A few of these appear to me deserving of notice. The Ordinance to amend the law relating to public education constitutes a board of education for the colony, to which is intrusted the distribution of the educational vote, and the general supervision of the system. The criminal laws have been assimilated to those of the United Kingdom. An Ordinance has been enacted bringing three important villages under a new system of incorporation, directly under the control of the Governor and Court of Policy, and giving power to the court to bring other villages under the operation of the same system. The object of this Ordinance is to enforce the adoption of measures for the preservation of the Public health chiefly by drainage, when the inhabitants neglect to act under the general Village Ordinance. An Ordinance has been enacted for the better government of prisons, which constitutes a board of prisons with power to make rules, and to superintend the various prisons in the colony. An Ordinance to extend the term of indenture of immigrants from three to five years is deemed by the employers generally a most important change. This measure had long been resisted by Her Majesty's Government, and it must be admitted that, much might be urged on both sides of the question. It is sufficiently established, that the immigrants do not object to being indentured for a term of years. This is proved by the fact, that at the expiration of their term of industrial residence, they, as a general rule, enter into new indentures for a second term, accepting a bounty of $50 as an adequate compensation. This is precisely the amount which the planter pays for his first term of indenture, but during the first two years of that term the services of the immigrants are much less valuable owing to want of skill, sickness, and various other causes. It was, therefore, an object to obtain seasoned immigrants, and it was alleged that a system of decoying that class from the estates, to which they had been allotted, was systematically followed. I have little doubt that the Executive will be able to prevent any evil that might result from the increased power which the planters will have over the labourers under the new system. Ordinances were enacted during the year for enabling the corporation of Georgetown to establish water-works, and for incorporating a company to light the city with gas.

Population.

6. The census tables will be found in the Blue Book, and I have in another Despatch, to which I beg to refer your Grace, commented on the various returns embraced therein.

Education.

7. From the report of the Inspector of Schools it appears that there were 100 schools receiving aid from the public chest at the close of 1862. Of these 49 were in connexion with the Church of England, having 4,256 children on the rolls, and an average attendance of 2,905. Twenty-six were in connexion with the Church of Scotland, having 1,134 on the rolls, and an average attendance of 826. Twenty in connexion with the Wesleyan Methodists, having 1,721 on the rolls, and an average attendance of 982. Four in connexion with the Roman Catholic Church, having 424 on the rolls, and an average attendance of 279. One school only of those in connexion with the London Missionaries and Independents receives public aid. It had 92 children on the register, and 40 in attendance.

Imports and Exports.

8. The value of the imports in 1862 was 1,107,181*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.* against 1,339,712*l.* 12*s.* 0*d.* in 1861. 1,145,958*l.* 19*s.* 0*d.* in 1860, and 1,179,900*l.* 18*s.* 0*d.* in 1859. The great falling off, is in goods from the United Kingdom, the value of which was 731,687*l.* in 1861, and 619,851*l.* 2*s.* 0*d.* in 1860, against 568,841*l.* in 1862. I have no doubt that the principal deficiency has been in the imports of the various manufactures of cotton.

The total value of the exports in 1862 was 1,365,295*l.* 6*s.*, but it may be convenient that I should refer specially to the principal staples.

	£
The sugar exported was 64,994 hogsheads, which is valued at 15*l.* per hogshead	974,910
Rum, 26,222 puncheons, at 8*l.*	209,776
Molasses, 3,377 casks, at 4*l.*	13,508
Timber, 652,122 cubic feet	48,816
	£1,247,010

There is a falling off in the value of the exports of the above articles as compared with 1862 of no less than 239,628*l.*, and this without any material reduction in the cost of cultivation. The consequences have been most serious to those planters, who have received large advances from the merchants. Several estates are, I think, likely to be abandoned, and unless some improvement in prices should speedily take place, some of the most enterprising planters in the colony will have great difficulty in sustaining themselves.

Gaols and Prisons.

9. The improvements of the system of prison discipline has occupied the attention of the Board of Prisons which was constituted during the year 1862. New rules have been adopted, and various changes made in the classification of the convicts for the various prisons. These changes, however, were only made at the latter end of 1862, and can be more satisfactorily reported on next year, when the new system will have been tested. I have no doubt that the changes have been on the whole very advantageous.

Hospitals and Charitable Institutions.

10. I have nothing to add to my report of last year with regard to these institutions. They are most liberally supported by the Legislature, and form a most important branch of the annual expenditure of the colony.

Concluding Remarks.

I deeply regret that there is such little encouragement at present for the investment of new capital in British Guiana. The sugar interest is in a state of great depression, and so large a capital has been already sunk in buildings and machinery, that it is hardly possible to divert the disposable labour of the colony into other channels. Some planters have been trying experiments in cotton cultivation on the front lands of their estates, and so far as I can learn, with complete success. It seems probable that cotton will again be cultivated to some extent, but there is as yet, no indication of separate cotton plantations being established. The planters, notwithstanding their serious difficulties, have not given way to despondency, for they are still applying for new immigrants, notwithstanding the high rate of freights, both from India and China. Having entered at considerable length into the financial state of the colony in my speech at the opening of the Combined Court, it may be convenient for me to transmit a copy of that document.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

SPEECH of HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR on the opening of the Combined Court.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Court of Policy,—
Gentlemen Financial Representatives,—

I HAVE little doubt that I should fail to meet your expectations, were I to enter into the necessarily dry details of Revenue and Expenditure, which it is my special duty, on this occasion, to bring under your consideration, without adverting to some topics of general and absorbing interest.

I feel assured that the inhabitants of this colony, animated by feeling of devoted loyalty and attachment to Her Majesty's person and Throne, have, like their fellow subjects in every part of Her dominions, experienced the most lively satisfaction on the occasion of the marriage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales with Her Royal Highness the Princess Alexandra of Denmark.

It is sad to turn from the contemplation of the rejoicings with which this auspicious event has been celebrated throughout the United Kingdom, and to reflect on the state of affairs on the continent of North America. The effect of the protracted warfare in which the inhabitants of that country are

BRITISH GUIANA.

engaged, has been most seriously felt in various parts of Her Majesty's dominions. The principal sufferers have been the operatives in those districts in England which are the chief seats of the cotton manufacture, and they have exhibited such patience and fortitude, under the most depressing circumstances, as to have secured for themselves the admiration and sympathy of their fellow subjects, both in the United Kingdom and in the Colonies. The inhabitants of British Guiana have, I am persuaded, fully shared in these feelings, although circumstances have placed it out of their power to evince them, as warmly as they would have desired. Their own sufferings from the same cause have been severe; but as they have fallen with greater intensity on capital, than on labour, they probably have been only fully appreciated by those who are connected with the sugar colonies.

It would be vain to expect that an exposition of the state of the public revenue and expenditure, at a period of general depression, could be satisfactory; but I am inclined to hope that the real facts will be found less alarming than the anticipations which have been formed by the public.

It was estimated by the Committee of Ways and Means that the revenue for 1862 would be $1,443,687 20 cts. The actual receipts from all sources were $1,370,790 75 cts.

The deficiency in the revenue was, from "General Imports" $35,988 30; from "Wine and Spirits" $18,855 84 cts.; from "Rum" $11,969 56 cts.; from "Beacon and Tonnage dues" $3,239 60 cts.; from "Retail Spirits Licences" $3,609; from "Other Licences" $2,835 03 cts; from "Fines and Seizures" $9,355 09 cts.; from "Stamps" $2,659 22 cts.; from "Fees" $927 33 cts., being in the aggregate $89,438 97 cts. There was a surplus under other heads of $16,542 52 cts., leaving a net deficiency of $72,896 45 cts. Although unwilling to trouble you with details, I think it may not be unprofitable, under existing circumstances, to pay some attention to the principal sources of revenue. It will be found that the estimate for customs' duties in 1862, though much less than the amount of the receipts in 1861, which you are aware were unusually large, was considerably above the average receipts of the preceding five years. The revenue of 1862 was about equal to that average, and, but for the short importation of some leading articles of British manufacture, would have been considerably above it. The specific duties yielded about $32,000 more than the average of the preceding five years. About one half of these duties are derived from five principal articles of consumption; namely, flour, rice, salt pork, dried fish, and tobacco. Those five articles yielded in 1862 nearly $37,000 more than the average of the preceding five years, and upwards of $5,000 more than in 1861, in which year the highest revenue of the period was obtained, Flour and tobacco yielded above $24,000 more than in 1861, and rice, pork, and fish nearly 19,000 less. It must, however, be borne in mind, that the revenue from articles subject to specific duties generally, and from all those specially referred to, except tobacco, was greater in 1861, than in any previous year. I think that the facts which I have stated, afford no ground for discouragement, as to the revenue derived from articles of general consumption. The average amount of revenue derived from the ad valorem duties of 10 per cent., during the five years preceding 1862, was $154,483 17 cts., of which "Linens, Cottons, and Woollens," "Haberdashery and Millinery," "Hardware and Cutlery," yielded an average amount of $111,851 86 cts. The ad valorem duties yielded in 1862 only $124,029 83 cts., and the articles specified $81,145 82 cts. The loss in revenue from all the articles subject to ad valorem duties was $30,453 34 cts., and as the loss from the principal articles specified was $30,706 04 cts., it may be inferred that the short importations were chiefly in those articles. The imports of merchandize subject to ad valorem duties were considerably less in 1862, than in any year since 1856, with the exception of 1858, but even in that year, the articles to which I have drawn special attention, yielded a larger revenue than in 1862. Of those articles, cotton manufactures are by far the most important, and the cause of the short importation of goods of that description is but too apparent.

The wine and spirit duties yielded $18,855 84 cts. less than the estimate, but rather more than the average of the preceding five years. As, however, they were raised during that period, I shall confine myself to a comparison between the returns in the years 1861 and 1862. These returns show a loss in the revenue from wine of about $4,000, in that from gin of about $14,000, and a gain in that from brandy of about $7,000, leaving a net loss of about $11,000 as compared with 1861.

The duty on rum was estimated at $280,000, and yielded $268,030 44 cts., showing a deficiency of $11,969 56 cts. The receipts from this source were nevertheless greater by $38,229 in 1862 than 1861; and although the result proves that the framers of the estimate were rather too sanguine, there is no indication of diminished consumption.

The only other branch of revenue to which I consider it necessary to refer, is that derived from licences for retailing spirits. This revenue was about equal in 1862 to the average of the preceding five years, although nearly $4,000 less than the estimate. A very considerable reduction was made in the license duty for stores in Georgetown and New Amsterdam, but I am inclined to doubt whether the result anticipated from that reduction has been obtained. In concluding my remarks on the subject of the revenue, I trust that you will consider that I am justified in addressing you in the language of encouragement.

I am not without hope that, when the proper time arrives for considering the Ways and Means, you may find it possible to provide for the exigencies of the public service without resorting to increased taxation; but should such a measure be deemed expedient in order to sustain the public credit, you would be able by assimilating the duties on one or two leading articles of consumption to those in force in the neighbouring colony of Trinidad, to obtain all the revenue that could be required.

The total amount of the provision made for the public service of the year 1862 was $1,442,444 83 cts., and the actual expenditure was $1,490,426 36 cts., showing an expenditure beyond the votes of $47,981 53 cts. You will find, however, that there are unexpended balances which will be required for the service of the present year of $33,458 84 cts., so that the actual amount of expenditure above the votes is $81,440 37 cts. The chief portion of this excessive expenditure has been incurred for the service of immigration, a subject to which I shall presently advert. I shall first, however, draw your attention to the other branches of expenditure. You will find that the votes for the "Contingent Expenses of the Administration of Justice," "Hospitals and Dispensaries," "Maintenance of the County Gaols," "Support of the Poor," "Maintenance of Public Roads," "Miscellaneous Expenditure," "Post Office," and "Public Works," have been exceeded, the last two items to a very trifling

extent. The aggregate excess of expenditure for the services which I have named, including some special and unforeseen demands, was $22,790 31 cts. On the other hand, a portion of the amount provided for the following services was unexpended, viz., the "Police," the "Penal Settlement and Convict Depôt," "Schools," "Militia," "Revenue Establishments," and "Clergy," and "Civil Lists." The entire saving under the foregoing heads was $14,276 15 cts., leaving a balance of $8,514 16 cts. If to this balance be added the excess of expenditure for immigration, which was $72,926 21 cts., you will have the aggregate excess of expenditure, as already stated, viz., 81,440 37 cts. When you investigate the accounts, you will, I have no doubt, be convinced that it is impossible to estimate with accuracy the expenditure at the hospitals, almshouses, and prisons, or that for the contingent expenses incurred in the administration of justice. This expenditure is governed by circumstances which cannot be foreseen when the estimate is under consideration. My constant efforts have been, and shall be used to promote economy in the administration of those institutions, to the utmost extent compatible with their efficiency.

I very much regret the excess of the immigration expenditure, because it has arisen from a miscalculation as to the cost, and not from any increase to the labouring population. The vote for Chinese immigration was exceeded by $40,842 70 cts., and that for Indian by $23,618 74 cts. It was estimated on apparently sufficient grounds, that the cost of the former would be about $125 per caput, instead of which it has exceeded $143. The report of the Auditor General on this subject will, no doubt, engage your consideration; but I may notice the fact, that a portion of the expenditure was incurred for advances and allotments, which the immigrants have undertaken to repay, and another portion for objects of a permanent character, such as a receiving ship, and land and buildings, which are doubtless of considerable value. I must own that after giving the subject the best consideration in my power, I am of opinion that, unless we are enabled to effect arrangements of a very different kind from those under which Chinese immigration has hitherto been conducted, it will be desirable to abandon it. There is, I think, no reason to doubt that the labour market of this colony can be sufficiently supplied from India, and however partial some of the employers may be to Chinese labourers, the only safe guide for the Legislature is the extent of the applications. The demand for Chinese for next season is under 500; and if the outlay for establishments in a very expensive country be taken into consideration, I am persuaded that the cost will be greater than the employers of labour can afford to give. Under the new system of dealing with the expenses of immigration, there can be no doubt that the indenture fee of $80 on men, and $40 on women, will not cover the planters' proportion of two thirds of the aggregate cost. The loss will fall on the immigration fund, which must be supplemented by a tax of some kind, to be paid by the planters as a class. But I fear that much dissatisfaction would be felt if so expensive a system should be kept up at the cost of the planters generally. I trust that you will understand, that my recommendations on this subject are based on the supposition, that no material reduction can be effected in the cost of importing Chinese labourers. I am not unaware that hopes are entertained that a new field can be opened for another experiment, and if any assurance can be given that effective agricultural labourers, men and women, can be supplied at one shipping port, who will not require advances, it may possibly be worth making another attempt, but I have as yet no information that would lead me to encourage you to persevere in importing Chinese labourers. Before dismissing the subject of immigration, I must recommend to your special attention the consideration of the ways and means for meeting the planters proportion of two thirds of the cost. If the rates of freight should continue high, and if Chinese immigration should be continued, I fear that there will be a considerable deficiency in the immigration fund. I am not in favour of increasing the indenture fees, and I must own that nothing but a conviction that there is no other alternative, would induce me to suggest an export tax on sugar, rum, and molasses. If you should be convinced of the necessity of supplementing the immigration fund, you can hardly dissent from the proposition that it would be more equitable, under all the circumstances of this colony, that a certain portion of the cost of immigration should fall on the planters as a class, than that the actual employers should be charged an additional fee. I shall be truly glad to find, that on a full consideration of the immigration estimate, and of the ways and means, it may be found practicable to abstain from a tax which is so much objected to; but on the other hand, it is my duty to caution you against making an insufficient provision for an expenditure which you believe to be so indispensably necessary. I must recall your attention to the state of the public chest. The deficiency of revenue in the year 1862 was $72,896 45 cts., and the excess of expenditure, allowing for the balances required for the service of the year 1863, was $81,440 37 cts., so that in considering the estimate for this year, we must take into account that we have to provide for a deficiency of $154,336 82 cts. If this amount be added to that of the estimate for 1863, which you will find to be $1,398,581 60 cts., it will give a grand total of $1,552,918 42 cts., which is about $110,000 above the estimate of 1862. This includes a provision for the payment of $24,000 of the riot bonds, which was postponed last year with the consent of the holders. The fixed charges for interest and sinking fund, redemption of bonds, civil and clergy lists, and the deficiency from 1862, amount to $531,353 94 cts., leaving the annual estimate which has been prepared for your consideration by the court of policy, $1,021,564 48 cts. This estimate you will find rather less than that which was voted last year, and I venture to hope that it will prove more reliable. The estimates for certain services have been reduced by the following amounts:—hospitals, $10,720; penal settlement and other prisons, $8,728; militia, $3,016; schools, $2,060; and immigration $50,980; in all $75,504. On the other hand, there will be found an increase in the estimates for certain services, to which I shall briefly advert. Under the various heads of "Annuities and Gratuities," there is an increase of $6,545 25 cts.; under that of "Contingent expenses of the Administration of Justice," $2,260, this however, being less than the amount expended last year in excess of the vote; under "Miscellaneous," $3,435 76 cts., caused chiefly by the necessity of satisfying an old claim for premium for the introduction of a steam plough; under the head of "Poor," $7,009, owing partly to the transference from the head of "Hospitals" to that of "Poor" of the charge for medical relief in the rural districts; under "Public Works" $6,981, owing chiefly to a larger estimate for the sea defences; under "Revenue Establishments and Public Accounts," $1,946 68 cts.; under "Post Office and Printing," $333 50 cts.; under

BRITISH GUIANA.

"Police," $12,262 32 cts. The aggregate of these items is $40,773 51 cts., and as the reductions were $75,504, the estimate for the present year is $34,730 49 cts. less than that of 1862. You will observe that there is a considerable increase in the estimate for the Police, and that the new charges are placed under a separate head. I have no doubt that this increased expenditure, which has been strongly recommended by the Inspector General of Police, would tend to increase the efficiency of the force; but it is part of a general scheme, the other portion of which cannot be brought into operation immediately, and it may not be advisable, having reference to the great deficiency with which we have to contend, to make such an addition to the estimate of the present year. I think it probable that some reduction may be made in the item for Indian immigration. An estimate has been made for Chinese immigration, as I have received advice that prompt and judicious measures were taken by Her Majesty's Land and Emigration Commissioners to procure the execution of the orders for Chinese immigrants sent from this colony. I have not received any recent advices on the subject, but it is not improbable that something definite may be learned during the session of the court. It will be necessary to make some arrangement for meeting the cost of African immigration, so as to enable the planters to obtain the usual credit, without throwing the cost of importation on the current revenue, as was done last year. Under existing circumstances, it seems to me inexpedient to defray the cost of public works and buildings of a permanent character from the current revenue. If you should concur with me in this opinion, I trust that you will likewise admit, that there are public works and buildings, the construction of which cannot be suspended without serious inconvenience and hazard. Even without reference to financial difficulties, it may be contended that the cost of works of this character should be spread over a period of years, and I find that it was determined by a former Combined Court that a loan should be raised specially to meet the cost of the sea defences. The plan was not carried out, for reasons to which it is unnecessary for me to advert at present. The estimate for 1863, including the reserved votes of 1862, contains items for Public Works and Buildings amounting to $135,204 23 cts., but if it could be relieved to the extent of from $100,000 to $125,000 for these services, you would, I hope, find little difficulty in providing for the other portion of the expenditure from the ordinary revenue.

Although my exposition of the state of the finances of the colony may not afford cause for congratulation, I am of opinion that there is no just ground for alarm or discouragement. I rely with entire confidence, that in dealing with the important subjects which are about to engage your consideration, you will be guided by an anxious desire to promote the best interests of the colony, and I trust that in all your deliberations you will be favoured with the Divine Blessing.

F. HINCKS.

April 14, 1863.

BARBADOS.

BARBADOS.

No. 7.

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor WALKER, C.B. to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 192.)

MY LORD DUKE, Windward Islands, Barbados, October 21, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Grace the Barbados Blue Book for 1862.

Duties, Taxes, Fees.

2. Since the date of my last report, the customs' tariff has undergone revision, and been renewed for three years. Many articles which formerly appeared in the schedule of import duties, but which brought very little revenue, are now added to the table of exemptions. As the tariff appears in another Parliamentary Return, there is no necessity for specifying the alterations.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. Pursuing the comparisons made in previous reports, the following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure of the island for the five last years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1858	96,914	87,891
1859	87,595	80,352
1860	94,752	110,873
1861	98,049	115,895
1862	93,682	93,461

The principal item of the revenue is the customs and tonnage duties, which during the same five years amounted to in—

	£
1858	61,117
1859	54,856
1860	55,549
1861	54,704
1862	51,430

In the other sources of income there was little change last year, the duty on rum consumed in the island having been 15,387*l.*, while in the preceding year it was 14,139*l.*

Local Taxation.

4. In all the rural districts of the island, the parochial taxes are pretty nearly the same, both in their nature and amount, as they have been for a great number of years past. In St. Michael's parish, in which Bridgetown is situated, there has, however, been a necessity for making considerable additions to the local rates to meet the expenses of a new fire brigade, and of the introduction of a plentiful supply of fresh water. For these new burdens, the citizens will receive an ample return in the increased security of their property and the improved sanitary condition of the town.

Military.

5. The Militia Act of the island is still in abeyance, and there was no enrolment last year. But the Volunteer Force continues to maintain itself with as much spirit as can possibly be expected in a place where we have few of those social gatherings, and none of the other attractions which have given popularity and strength to the movement in England, and without which it could never have been maintained even there.

6. The eleven troops of Yeomanry Cavalry have all turned out regularly to their monthly drill; and twice this year have they been brigaded with Her Majesty's Forces and acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of the General Officer commanding the troops.

7. There are at this moment two Artillery batteries under active drill, and a third, the Speights, who were enrolled for three years, defrayed the cost of all their own appointments, and had arrived at an acknowledged proficiency as gunners, are now waiting re-enrolment as soon as they are assured that they will be equipped and armed like the others at the public expense.

8. The young men of Bridgetown too, have come forward and formed three companies of Volunteer Rifles, and turn out at present for weekly drill. But it is a hard thing to keep all the volunteers together, and although I wish the day may be far off, I believe that they will never be thoroughly consolidated until they are called upon to perform something like active service, when they will I have no doubt give a good account of themselves.

9. Provision was made last year by the Legislature for giving to every member of the Yeomanry Force a sum of seven shillings and sixpence for each day on which he turned out for drill. A proposition is now before the Legislature for granting a similar payment to the Artillery and Rifle Volunteers. It has been introduced without any encouragement on my part, and I very much fear that its probable rejection will have an unfavourable effect on the force generally.

Public Works.

10. Your Grace will observe that under this head there was a large expenditure during the past year, but that it was mostly occasioned by the improvement and repairs of old buildings. To this, however, there were two exceptions,—the construction of a new wharf of 250 feet at the mouth of the inner harbour which has been completed; and the erection of a female prison within the walls of the new establishment, at Glendairy, which is not expected to be finished until after the close of this year.

11. Contracts have been taken, and are now being proceeded with, for still further extending the wharf accommodation, and for throwing an iron swing bridge over the Careenage, the completion of which will I hope, be reported to your Grace before many months are over. The removal of the female prisoners to Glendairy from the two rural out-stations where they are now confined will conduce to both discipline and economy, and will place at our disposal the requisite buildings for a juvenile reformatory, an institution which the state of the country is daily rendering more and more necessary.

BARBADOS.

Legislation.

12. During the last year 31 Acts were passed by the Legislature. Of these, three were for securing patent rights to individuals; six were for granting small salaries or pensions; four were in connexion with the Waterworks Company; eight were ordinary continuance or amendment Acts; two, in regard to the exportation of warlike stores and the tenure of Admiralty property, were brought forward at the instigation of Her Majesty's Government; and three were for the purchase of property in connexion with public improvements. Of the remaining five, one was for the payment of the Volunteer Yeomanry Cavalry for each time they turned out to drill, two were for making additional regulations relative to the trade of the island, one for establishing a fire brigade, and one for authorizing a clergyman who had been ordained in the United States to officiate in the Church here.

13. It may be within your Grace's recollection that the Act for establishing the fire brigade encountered severe opposition in the early part of last year, and that petitions were forwarded to Her Majesty's Government for the purpose of procuring its disallowance. But I am happy to be able to report that every angry feeling on the subject has now subsided, that the brigade itself has worked efficiently and satisfactorily, and that all parties seem now to join in endeavouring to promote its efficiency. On more than one occasion during the last 18 months, the promptness with which the brigade appeared on the scene and brought their appliances to bear, certainly saved us from extensive fires.

14. Some irregularities in the Customs Department having led to a more literal and stringent application of the law with regard to the entry and clearance of the vessels, complaint was made by the merchants that the regulations operated with undue pressure, and that many of them had in fact become obsolete in the mother country. Occasion was therefore taken in passing the General Trade Act in December 1862 to relax, or dispense with, many of the old forms, and to adapt the transaction of business to the water side practice in England.

15. With regard to the Act for enabling Mr. Bowen to officiate as a clergyman, and which was disallowed by Her Majesty in Council, provision has at your Grace's instance been made by Parliament for remedying the inconvenience or injury which might have been produced by that proceeding of the Local Legislature, and for extending the sphere from which to recruit our clergy.

Civil Establishment.

16. In the civil establishment there were several changes of some importance in 1862. The promotion of Mr. Holligan to the Colonial Secretaryship led to the appointment of Captain Fleetwood Wilson to be Auditor General. Captain Wilson died four months after his arrival in the island, having given every promise of being a great acquisition to the public service. About the same time there were taken away from us, Mr. William Spencer, the magistrate for St. Michael's parish, and Mr. Gall, the official assignee, two old and able servants of the Government. The more recent deaths of Mr. Gittens, the rector of St. John's, and of Captain Senhouse, R.N., the Provost Marshal, both at the advanced age of 76, have created gaps in the public service which I ought to notice, although they do not properly belong to the record of 1862. Nor should I omit the mention of the loss of a more humble, though most useful officer, Mr. Joseph Rollin, who for 30 years had held a superior office in the police force.

Population.

17. The return under this head shows 6,506 baptisms to 3,834 deaths, but as they are confined to the established church, they do not sufficiently represent the increase or decrease of the population. There is no doubt, however, that it is rapidly increasing, and that the want of employment, coupled with the necessity under which every planter rests, of curtailing his expenses within the narrowest possible limits, are producing a state of things which must be subject of serious reflection. Within the last three months emigration has been going on to Antigua and Santa Cruz, and although upwards of 2,000 persons have left the island to seek their fortunes elsewhere, their absence seems to have made no perceptible impression upon the population.

Ecclesiastical.

Encl. 1.

18. I annex a tabular statement which I received from the Bishop, showing the state of the Church Establishment in July 1862. Since that date two new chapels have been

consecrated, one in the parish of St. George, and the other in the parish of St. John; and the Legislature has endowed two additional curacies, making in all 26, with stipends of 200*l.* a year each, and most of them with residences or allowances for house rent. These, with 11 rectors at 320*l.* a year each, and a glebe, together with one gaol chaplain at 300*l.*, constitute the clerical staff of the island, of which the expense is defrayed from the Colonial Treasury. BARBADOS.

19. At the same time I should mention that the Wesleyan and Moravian congregations are, with their pastors, making strenuous and successful exertions to extend their church and school accommodation.

Educational.

20. The report of the Inspector of Schools for the last year is too lengthy and too full of detail to permit of its being attached to this despatch; but I enclose an epitome of it, which he has been good enough to make for transmission to your Grace, with some tabular statements similar to, but more extended than those which were furnished last year. They illustrate a state of things which, so far as 1862 is concerned, is by no means discouraging; but I regret to have to state that during the last six months the distress and privation which have existed among all classes have operated most unfavourably on the number of attendants at the primary and infant schools. Encl. 2.

Imports and Exports.

21. The value of the imports and exports for the last five years is as follows:—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
1858 - -	1,225,118	1,468,449
1859 - -	1,049,236	1,225,571
1860 - -	941,761	984,294
1861 - -	923,874	1,075,374
1862 - -	913,141	1,067,612

The three last years show little variation, but they have been three in which the planter has been receiving a scant return for his produce. Of the imports, it may be said in round numbers that about two-fifths consist of British manufactured goods, and that provisions from America make up about two-fifths more.

The exports scarcely deserve to be placed at so high a figure. The value of the sugar is put down at 15*l.* a hogshead, but that is more than what it averaged. In quantity, the crop will be seen from the following statement to be nearly an average of the four preceding years.

	Hhds.
In 1858 were shipped - -	50,027
1859 „ - - -	40,343
1860 „ - -	43,365
1861 „ - - -	49,845
1862 „ - -	46,078

The crop of sugar shipped during the present year has been under that of 1862,—amounting to only 42,436 hhds.

22. The total amount of tonnage which entered during the last year was 116,115. Of this 88,530 was British. The resort of shipping to Barbados seeking for a market or freight, or for orders, but without coming to an entry, is very great.

Crime.

23. The total amount of prisoners in 1862 closely approximates that of previous years. The greatest number in confinement at any one period was 427, as against 476 in 1860, and 409 in 1861. The number in confinement at Michaelmas was 348, as against 347 at the same date in 1860, and 236 in 1861.

I am sorry, however, that it is not in my power to report the same freedom as formerly from heinous crime. Besides an increase in the number of undiscovered but undoubted cases of arson, no less than five men in a population of 150,000 souls, have, within 12 months, been executed for murder, in each instance of so atrocious a character as to banish every thought of mercy.

Sanitary.

24. The general health of the island during the last year was far from good, and in the autumn we were visited by yellow fever, which became epidemic, and carried off a number of civilians, several officers in garrison, and two European soldiers. I have been furnished with a report which was made to the medical department in England by the Inspector-General of Hospitals here on the fever, but it is almost of too technical

BARBADOS.

Encl. 3.

a character to form an annexure to this despatch. I enclose, however, a return, supplied by the same officer, of the sickness which occurred among the troops during the time of its prevalence, from which it will be seen how very small the mortality was in the European regiment. There is no doubt that this happy escape resulted from the promptitude with which the military authorities changed the locale of the regiment, and encamped it on a height a few miles distant. Five officers belonging to West India regiments died. Among the civil population the deaths were more numerous, and although many of them were new comers, several who fell victims to fever had been thoroughly acclimatized, and one or two of the military officers who sunk, were men who had served through more than one unhealthy season on the western coast of Africa.

General.

25. During 1862 there was contentment and even a moderate prosperity in Barbados, but the state of the produce market in England for three successive years has begun to exhibit a very serious impress upon both employer and labourer. The necessities of the planter have compelled a reduction of wages, or, what is the same thing, the exaction of a greater amount of work for the same amount of pay. Whilst this cause was operating, the price of food was enhanced by a long and severe drought, which not only brought about a scarcity of native provisions, but rendered agricultural employment from the state of the soil both difficult and valueless. These things combined to produce great distress and privation among all classes. Want, and I am sorry to add, resentment, led to robbery and outrage ; and for a few weeks there existed a lawlessness which it required all the exertions of the local Government to repress.

26. More lately a change of season and a moderate emigration to the neighbouring islands have given some relief, and lawlessness is at an end, but withal at the present time the social condition of Barbados is not what it was in 1862.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. (Signed) JAMES WALKER.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1 in No. 7.

Enclosure 1 in No. 7.

CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT. July 1862.

Population A.D. 1861.	Parishes with their Churches.	No. of Sittings.	Chapels.	No. of Sittings.	Chapel Schools and Rooms licensed for Divine Service.	No. of Sittings.	Total Places of Worship.	Total No. of Sittings.
43,766	St. Michael's -	1,950	St. Mary's -	1,420	St. Giles' Chapel School -	140	11	7,778
			St. Paul's -	1,360	Samaritan's School -	200		
			St. Ambrose -	832	Highgate School - -	100		
			St. Leonard's -	346				
			St. Stephen's -	530				
			St. Matthew's -	600				
			St. Barnabas -	300				
7,047	St. Andrew's -	630			St. Simon's - -	210	3	1,226
					St. Saviour's - -	386		
17,306	Christ Church -	1,200	St. Matthias' -	850	St. Lawrence - - -	220	7	3,867
			St. Bartholomew's	502	Below Rock School -	150		
			St. David's -	300				
			St. Patrick's -	645				
13,339	St. George's -	955	St. Luke's -	666	St. Augustine's School-room	200	4	2,451
			St. Jude's -	630				
8,483	St. James' - -	372	St. Silas' - -	268	St. Alban's - -	120	3	760
9,125	St. John's - -	1,200	The Society's -	654	Newcastle Chapel School -	250	4	2,424
			St. Mark's -	320				
7,263	St Joseph's -	762	St. Ann's -	410			2	1,172
8,707	St. Lucy's - -	1,200	St. Clement's -	700	St. Swithin's - -	500	3	2,400
10,564	St. Peter's - -	1,000	All Saint's -	380	Welch Town School -	150	5	1,978
			Boscobel -	300				
			Cemetery Chapel -	148				
16,793	St. Philip's - -	900	Holy Trinity -	520	St. Catherine's - -	140	4	2,085
			St. Martin's -	525				
9,879	St. Thomas' -	758	Holy Innocents' -	750			2	1,508
152,272	11 Parish Churches -	10,927	24 Chapels -	13,956	13 Chapel Schools, &c. -	2,766	48	27,649

Enclosure 2 in No. 7.

BARBADOS.

Encl. 2 in No. 7.

Dayrells, St. Michael's, Sept. 16, 1863.

May it please your Excellency,

IN obedience to your Excellency's wishes I have prepared, and have the honour to transmit, tabular statements concerning the public schools for the year 1862. The first and third are very similar to, but, I think, improvements upon those of last year, of which you have been pleased to express your approval. The second, like it's companions, is, I believe, unique, and is the result of an attempt to epitomize my report of the year's examinations; it will, I trust, meet your Excellency's wishes.

Continuous employment from 7 A.M. to 5½ P.M., in instructing the uncertificated schoolmasters during the fortnight which ended with Friday last, prevented, much to my regret, the early attention your Excellency's communication would have otherwise received.

A compendious view of the hitherto obtained results of the last change of plan for educating the poor of the island, for which you have likewise asked me, follows. Past and Present—

Schools.

Twelve years ago, when the present Education Committee came into being, not quite a half of the schools this year reported had been established. Of the 137 now on the aided list, 24 primary and 46 infant schools have sprung up in the interval. Even of the old ones several are quite newly lodged; in some instances an inferior building, yielding room to one better suited for the purpose; in others, a new building being erected to draw out the school children from places of worship which had before served in a twofold capacity. There is just now no need of additional primary schools, and, at the late rate of increase, the supply of infant schools promises soon to overtake the demand.

Arrangements exist at this time in the school buildings for lodging 59 of the 137 teachers as a perquisite of office.

Teachers.

Shortly before the beginning of the period here reviewed, a semi-official board of examiners gave a favourable report of the proficiency of three only of the then public school teachers, one of whom yet remains in the service, and though improved in the interim, he as yet holds but a third class certificate, granted under the new arrangements. There have been, to this time, three yearly examinations for certificates, and of those classified on these occasions there are now in the employ two of the first class, 12 of the second, and 16 of the third. Two missing holders of first class certificates have become ministers of Religion, one a Clergyman, the other a Moravian missionary.

A course of instruction is provided annually in the school holidays for the improvement of the teachers. Hitherto this privilege has been confined to uncertificated masters.

The pupil teacher system has been at work with us more than three years, and of the 30 to which this staff is limited, there are now 25 in the various stages of apprenticeship, which may extend over four years. Two of the lads, who, less than four years back, passed their election examinations as pupil teachers, are now masters holding second class certificates. The extension of the certificate and pupil teacher systems, which have worked so well within their present limits, to the girl and infant schools, would be attended with much benefit, and seems now to be called for. With very few exceptions, our primary schools include both sexes and are under the charge of masters.

Salaries.

I have not reliable data for instituting a careful comparison between existing salaries and those of a former period, but though yet in many cases still inadequate, the incomes have had an upward tendency. The average income of a primary school teacher for 1862 was 45*l.*, derived in about equal parts from school fees and government grants. The classified masters have in addition a certificate bonus varying in value according to the grade, from 10*l.* annually to 2*l.* 10*s.*, and a small stipend also for instructing pupil teachers, and in three of the 11 parishes vestry grants are likewise awarded, varying from 10*l.* to 30*l.* the year.

The average income of an infant school mistress was, for the year, 12*l.*, derived from the government, and fees, in the proportion of three-fifths from the former source, and two-fifths from the latter. In only a few cases is the income in this description of school supplemented.

Instruction.

The second tabular statement speaks in this matter for itself, and seems to say that the dictation and the arithmetic in the primary school need special attention. Though in all respects very susceptible of improvement, the remaining subjects in those schools and the entire curriculum in the infant schools are calculated to afford encouragement. Our present stand-point is, I apprehend, about equally remote from the degree of excellence that has been found attainable, and from the general inefficiency which prevailed when the existing system came into operation.

I have &c.

His Excellency Governor Walker, C.B. (Signed) R. P. ELLIOTT,
Inspector of Schools.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

Numerical Return of Schools for the Poor, in connection with the Education Committee, for the Year 1862.

Parish.	Population in 1861.	Approximate Number of Persons over 4 years and under 15.	Number of Schools.							Certificated Masters.				Government Pupil Teachers.				Average Attendance.				Names on Registers.			
			Primary.			Infant.																			
			Church of England.	Wesleyan.	Moravian.	Church of England.	Wesleyan.	Moravian.	Total.	Church of England.	Wesleyan.	Moravian.	Total.	Church of England.	Wesleyan.	Moravian.	Total.	Church of England.	Wesleyan.	Moravian.	Total.	Church of England.	Wesleyan.	Moravian.	Total.
1. St. Michael - -	43,778	11,922	10	4	4	11	–	3	32	5	2	–	7	2	3	–	5	1,125	298	386	1,809	1,854	436	680	2,970
2. Christ Church - -	17,307	5,408	9	1	–	4	–	–	14	4	–	–	4	3	–	–	3	807	78	–	885	1,344	117	–	1,461
3. St. Philip - -	16,772	5,360	4	5	–	8	–	–	17	4	1	–	5	2	–	–	2	505	349	–	854	801	536	–	1,337
4. St. George - -	13,339	4,250	5	1	–	3	–	–	9	4	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	424	40	–	464	749	69	–	818
5. St. Peter - -	10,558	3,358	4	1	–	2	–	–	7	1	–	–	1	2	–	–	2	264	58	–	322	452	118	–	570
6. St. Thomas - -	9,879	3,204	5	–	3	3	–	1	12	2	–	–	2	2	–	–	2	397	–	287	684	738	–	522	1,260
7. St. John - -	9,140	2,888	6	–	1	4	–	1	12	2	–	1	3	1	–	1	2	603	–	160	763	891	–	290	1,181
8. St. Lucy - -	8,706	2,908	4	2	–	1	–	–	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	298	74	–	372	474	116	–	590
9. St. James - -	8,486	2,752	4	1	–	8	–	–	13	1	1	–	2	1	–	–	1	509	35	–	544	882	58	–	940
10. St. Joseph - -	7,263	2,330	3	–	–	3	–	1	7	1	–	–	1	1	–	–	1	311	–	38	349	543	–	61	604
11. St. Andrew - -	7,047	2,318	3	1	–	3	–	–	7	1	–	–	1	1	–	–	1	173	22	–	195	297	44	–	341
Totals - -	152,275	46,698	57	16	8	50	–	6	137	25	4	1	30	15	3	1	19	5,416	954	871	7,241	9,025	1,494	1,553	12,072

Note 1.—The above approximation is obtained by deducting one-third from the Population under 15 years.
Note 2.—This Return does not include the Boys' and Girls' Central Schools, because they are assisted by the Island Treasury direct, without the intervention of the Education Committee. They have, however, six of the Government Pupil Teachers employed, which number added to the above gives a total of 25.

Sub-Enclosure 2.

STATE of the present attainment in the foregoing Schools, ascertained personally by the Inspector, by means of uniform tests applied individually to the Children without previous notice, chiefly within the year 1862.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

—	—	Church of England.	Wesleyan.	Moravian.	Average Proportion.
1. Reading - - -	Children able to read the New Testament with some degree of fluency.	1529/3117	402/853	405/727	·497
2. Dictation - -	Able to write at dictation from the Psalms, an allowance of 8 per cent. of misspelling being granted.	292/3204	62/850	64/727	·087
3. Arithmetic - -	Able to work well the Compound Rules	177/3236	27/838	44/727	·051
4. Catechetical Religious Instruction.	Able to say the text of the Ten Commandments well.	477/2926	75/822	34/473	·138
5. Grammar - -	Able to declare the parts of speech in a sentence, an allowance of 50 per cent. of error being granted.	199/2579	57/728	45/491	·079
6. Geography - -	Able to answer one, or more, of a set of eight questions, dipping lightly into each branch of the subject.	220/2797	48/713	42/626	·074
7. Paper Writing - -	Supplied with good copy-books.	481/1758	282/716	369/586	·37

INFANT SCHOOLS.

1. Reading - - -	Able to read an easy verse from the New Testament.	456/2182	—	40/241	·2
2. Dictation - -	Able to write at dictation the 8th Commandment, an allowance of one misspelling being granted.	174/2188	—	1/198	·073
3. Arithmetic - -	Able to work simple addition well.	220/2184	—	0/198	·09
4. Catechetical Religious Instruction.	Able to repeat intelligibly the Lord's Prayer.	220/1738	—	21/216	·123
5. Multiplication Table	Able to say well to the 5th line inclusive	76/1549	—	5/130	·047
6. Counting - -	Able to count perfectly to 100.	227/1550	—	10/130	·141
7. Singing - - -	Able to start and sing alone, intelligibly, a verse of some Hymn or School song.	278/1747	—	29/186	·15

1. The numerator in every case represents the sum of the children passing the examination in question, the denominator the sum of the attendance in the same schools, on the days the examinations in that particular subject were held.

2. English history and vocal music by note were inquired for in the Primary Schools, and paper-writing in the Infant Schools, but the results were, on the whole, not worth reporting.

Sub-Enclosure 3.

Return of the Youth of the Island of an Age to be at School, compiled from the Census Papers of 1861, and Reports made to the Education Committee in 1862.

Parish.	Approximate Number of Youth between 4 and 15 Years.	Youth between 4 and 15 Years regularly employed.					Youths between 4 and 15 Years, neither at work nor being schooled.	Scholars compared with Population.		
		In Schools aided by the Education Committee.	In Private Schools.	Under Instruction at home.	Employed in Agriculture.	Total.		Population in 1861.	Scholars.	Proportion between Scholars and Population.
1. St. Michael - -	11,922	2,970	3,670	719	696	8,055	3,867	43,778	7,359	1 in 5·94
2. Christ Church -	5,408	1,461	876	81	1,0	3,485	1,923	17,307	2,418	1 in 7·15
3. St. George - -	4,250	818	710	112	729	2,369	1,881	13,339	1,640	1 in 8·13
4. St. Philip - -	5,360	1,337	1,142	128	1,180	3,787	1,573	16,772	2,607	1 in 6·43
5. St. Peter - - -	3,358	570	372	97	554	1,593	1,765	10,558	1,039	1 in 10·16
6. St. Thomas - -	3,204	1,260	—	52	637	1,949	1,255	9,879	1,312	1 in 7·52
7. St. John - -	2,888	1,181	455	63	476	2,175	713	9,140	1,699	1 in 5·37
8. St. Lucy - -	2,908	590	1,151	178	567	2,486	422	8,706	1,919	1 in 4·53
9. St. James - -	2,752	940	161	48	597	1,746	1,006	8,486	1,149	1 in 7·38
10. St. Joseph - -	2,330	604	458	99	549	1,710	620	7,263	1,161	1 in 6·25
11. St. Andrew - -	2,318	341	327	26	497	1,191	1,127	7,047	694	1 in 10·15
Totals -	46,698	12,072	9,322	1,603	7,549	30,546	16,152	152,275	22,997	Average for the Island 1 in 6·62

Note.—The private school column reveals, I think, errors in the Census Returns as regards the parishes of St. Thomas and St. Lucy.

Enclosure 3 in No. 7.

BARBADOS.

Encl. 3 in No. 7.

RETURN showing the ADMISSIONS and DEATHS among the TROOPS stationed at BARBADOS, from 1st July 1862 to 7th November 1862.

CORPS.	Fevers.		Opthalmia.		Rheumatism.		Venereals.		Bronchitis.		Other Complaints.		Total.	
	Admitted.	Died.	Admitted.	Died.	Admitted.	Died.	Admitted.	Died.	Admitted.	Died.	Admitted.	Died.	Admitted.	Died.
Royal Artillery * - -	25	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	32	—	62	1
1/21 Fusiliers † - - -	89	2	32	—	5	—	25	—	1	—	101	2	253	4
1st West India Regiment ‡ -	45	1	5	—	12	—	21	—	7	2	54	4	144	7§
4th West India Regiment -	18	1	—	—	5	—	22	—	1	—	20	—	66	1
Military Labourers - -	12	—	1	—	6	—	6	—	2	—	15	1	42	1
Total -	189	5	38	—	28	—	78	—	12	2	222	7	567	14

* The Battery Royal Artillery went into Camp Naval Hospital 15th September.
† The 1/21 Fusiliers went to Camp at Gun Hill on the 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th September.
‡ The 1st West India Regiment moved from Stone and Iron Barracks to the vacated Brick Barracks on 22d September, also detachment of 4th West India Regiment.
§ One of these was a case of homicide.

RETURN of FEVERS amongst the Officers, from 1st July to 7th November 1862.

Corps.	Admitted.	Died.
Royal Engineer - -	1	—
1/21 Regiment - -	7	1
1st West India Regiment	9	4
4th West India Regiment	1	1
Civil Staff - -	7	3
Totals -	25	9

The garrison consisted on the 1st of July of 72 officers, all Europeans, and 1,389 non-commissioned officers and men, of whom 792 were Europeans.

The casualties under the head of Fever were caused by Yellow Fever.

(Signed) J. MAC GREGOR,
Deputy Inspector-General and P.M.O.

GRENADA.

GRENADA

No. 8.

No. 8.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor WALKER, C.B., to His Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 112.) Windward Islands, Barbados,
MY LORD DUKE, 29th May 1863.

I HAVE the honor to forward to your Grace the Blue Book of Grenada for the year 1862, together with the usual report from the Lieutenant Governor.

Lt.-Gov. No. 60. 23 May 1863.

2. Considering the general depression which has pervaded these colonies during the past year, there does not seem to be much to lament either in the fiscal or moral condition of the island.

GRENADA.

3. The increase in the number of summary convictions is stated to arise amongst the newly-arrived coolies, and I have been assured that their offences consisted mainly of breaches of contract.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. (Signed) JAS. WALKER.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 8.

Enclosure in No. 8.

Lieutenant-Governor KORTRIGHT to Governor WALKER.

(No. 60.) Government Office, Grenada,
SIR, 23rd May 1863.

I HAVE the honor to forward to your Excellency, herewith, the Blue Book for the year 1862.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

The only change under this head is the revival of the several Acts imposing a tonnage duty on vessels clearing out of any of the ports of the colony, the operation of which had been suspended for three years by Act No. 237, passed in 1859. The suspension of these Acts was an experiment which it was considered might have the effect of increasing trade, but the result was not as satisfactory as had been anticipated in that respect, whilst it entailed a loss to the colony of, on an average, 800*l.* per annum.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue raised from all sources amounted to 18,397*l.*, which may be distinguished under the following heads, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Duties of imports	9,224	17	1
Licenses of all descriptions	1,506	16	6
Fees collected by the Colonial Secretary, Provost Marshal, Magistrates, and Clerks of Markets	933	18	6
Two-thirds of the amount of duties on rum consumed in the colony	2,184	8	9
Tonnage duty	731	0	6
Tax on land, houses, saddle horses, mules, and asses under the money bill of 1862	2,648	2	7
Carriacou Medical Rate Act	312	13	0
Miscellaneous receipts	855	10	6
	£ 18,397	7	5

The revenue of the previous year did not exceed 16,728*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, showing an increase in 1862 in every branch of revenue, amounting in the aggregate to 1,669*l.* 6*s.*

A comparison between the expenditure of 1861 and 1862 shows a clear decrease of expenditure for the latter year amounting to 959*l* 4*s.* 11*d.* The sum expended for education was less by 851*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* than in the previous year; there was also a large reduction of expenditure for roads and bridges, public works, and buildings. Under several other heads also a marked decrease took place, whilst the cost of additional men to the police force for the conveyance of the inland mails was 298*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* in excess of the previous year, and the miscellaneous votes of the legislature, which included 200*l.* for expenses under the Inland Post Office Act, exceeded by 334*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* those of 1861. It would appear by the Blue Book that, including a surplus at the end of the year 1861, the revenues of 1862, amounting to 19,572*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, were in excess of the expenditure by 2,000*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; but it is to be observed that there were claims on the treasury for the last quarter of the year amounting to 2,883*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* for salaries to public officers and other expenses, which could only be paid on the 1st January of the present year. There were also arrears due to road contractors for work done in 1861, amounting to 552*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*, and 904*l.* 14*s.* of the sum voted for roads for 1862

was still unpaid. These sums, forming a total of 4,341*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, show that so far from there then being a surplus revenue for 1862, the bonâ fide expenditure incurred for the service of that year exceeded the revenue by 2,340*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*

Local Revenues.

The local tax raised for the repairs of the streets in the towns of St. George, Charlotte Town, Grenville, and St. Patrick, amounted to 408*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, and the expenditure to not more than 195*l.* 6*s.* A tax is levied on shipping and on houses in the town of St. George for the maintenance of the works erected for the conveyance of water into town, and for the supplying of the shipping. The proceeds of this tax amounted in 1862 to 321*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*, and there was a balance from the year before of 509*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* The expenditure was 49*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*

Immigration.

At the close of 1861 the immigration fund exhibited a sum in hand amounting to 9,965*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* The third of the rum duties, devoted by Act No. 212 to immigration, amounted to 1,092*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* The export duty yielded 1,654*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, and the proportion of passage money paid by the employers of coolie immigrants gave the sum of 3,797*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, making the total amount available for immigration purposes during the year 16,510*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* The expenditure during the year was large, in consequence of the arrival of three ships from India with coolies, namely:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The "Accrington," with 384, at a cost of - -	5,527	16	10
The "Athletæ," „ 345 „ - -	5,300	1	8
And the "Ganges," „ 294 „ - -	4,993	12	4

The sum of 2,000*l.* was remitted to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners on account of expenses incurred in India, and other payments, such as salary to immigration agent and interpreters, interest on guaranteed loan, and contribution to the sinking fund, and other incidental expenses, brought the expenditure to 19,024*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.* As the revenue was insufficient to meet this outlay, a loan of 5,000*l.* was contracted for five years at 6 per cent. interest per annum.

Church Land Revenues.

The balance under this head on the 31st December 1861, was 96*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* The rents, after deducting the commission allowed for collection, amounted to 87*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*, being a total of 183*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* This fund is entirely under the control of the governor, to be applied by him to purposes connected with the Established Church. The expenditure from this fund in 1862 amounted to 55*l.* granted for repairs and improvements to the church of the town of Saint George and to Saint Paul's chapel, in the parish of Saint George.

Post Office.

The revenue and expenditure of the post office was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
On hand on 1st January - - - -	292	4	6			
Postage during year - - - - -	715	9	0			
Grant from legislature - - - -	200	0	0			
				1,207	13	6
Deduct—						
Stamps and salaries to inland postmasters - -	405	16	5			
Proportion of postage remitted to Imperial Government - - - - - -	522	14	7			
				928	11	0
Balance in favour of the Colonial Government - - -				279	2	6

Public Debts.

These consist, 1st, of 7,000*l.* to the Rock Life Assurance Company, guaranteed by Act 11 and 12 Vict. cap. 130. of the Imperial Parliament for the promotion of immigration, and bearing interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. A twentieth part of the debt is remitted to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury at the end of

GRENADA.

each year, for the formation of a sinking fund for the ultimate liquidation of the loan. Up to the 31st December 1862, 1,575*l.* had been remitted and invested in the 3 per cent. reduced annuities, and amounted in stock to 1,797*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* The interest is paid half yearly. 2ndly, of 5,000*l.*, for which debentures were issued in June 1862, bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, redeemable at the expiration of five years.

Militia.

I regret to say that I have nothing satisfactory to report with regard to the militia. The period for which the men took service expired during the year, and a strong disinclination to volunteer was manifested. The Militia Act sanctions enrolment by ballot, but being of opinion that unpaid compulsory service would not secure so trustworthy a body of men as voluntary service, I did not think it advisable to put the clause of the Act relating to the ballot in force. It is in contemplation to amend the present Militia Act, and to authorize the organization of purely volunteer corps on the model of those which are working so efficiently in England.

Legislation.

The Legislature passed thirteen Acts during the last year, the most important of which are the Acts, No. 314 and No. 323. The first of these, continuing the Act for establishing police districts, and for authorizing the appointment of police magistrates, was passed for one year only, and will expire at the first meeting of the Legislature in June next. The latter is an Act to suspend for a year the operation of the Act to provide for the education of the people of Grenada, and abolishes, for the time it is in force, the Board of Education, and the grammar and normal schools, and reduces the grant from 1,200*l.* to 900*l.*, to be allotted by the Legislature.

House of Assembly.

On the 27th of January I dissolved the House of Assembly, which had then been in existence six years, thus anticipating by a year the general election, the duration of the House of Assembly being fixed by the Election Act at seven years. The registration of votes takes place in September of each year, and in 1861 the number of names registered so far exceeded that of any previous year, that I considered it desirable to afford the electors an opportunity of exercising their newly-acquired rights.

Education.

Education received a severe check in 1862. The House of Assembly made no provision in the Money Bill for that year, either for salaries for teachers or for the incidental expenses. Much credit is due to the clergymen of the several denominations for having kept their schools together under great difficulties, and the teachers deserve praise for having consented to continue their duties under the pressure, in some instances, of the actual want of the necessaries of life, with the hope that the Legislature would make good to them the salaries they had usually received, and which they were led to suppose, when they submitted to training to fit them for their occupation, would be ensured to them.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports in the year 1862 is represented by a sum amounting to 112,518*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, and the value of the exports by 87,860*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* In the previous year the value of the imports amounted to 114,252*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, and of the exports to 112,463*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*, showing a falling off in the value of the imports in 1862 of 1,733*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, and of 24,603*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* in the value of the exports. I have before stated that the sum derived from the duty on imports exceeded in the year 1862 that of the previous year, and I find that generally those articles of which there was an augmented consumption, are rated in the Blue Book at a lower value. I may mention rice, of which 2,968 cwt. 2 qrs. and 15 lbs., valued at 14*s.* 10*d.* per cwt., were imported in 1861, and 3,527 cwt. 2 qrs. and 27 lbs., valued at 13*s.* 4*d.* per cwt. in 1862. The falling off in the value of exports is to be ascribed to the small crop, and the low price of colonial produce in the English market.

Agriculture.

Agriculture was carried on last year under many disadvantages, and it is not, therefore, to be expected that there could be much improvement either in the system of

agriculture or in the implements in use. The consequence of the wet and unfavourable weather of the previous year was a diminished crop of sugar, cocoa, and cotton, which, combined with other circumstances affecting the planting interest, tended to throw a gloom over the spirits of those connected with agriculture, and repressed any inclination to undertake improvements. The desire for immigrants is undiminished, which is, I presume, the best proof that, notwithstanding the high price paid for their labour, the island has benefited by their introduction. The total number of coolies in the colony at the end of 1862, was 1,856 male and female, working upon 70 estates. GRENADA.

Gaols and Prisons.

The number of prisoners committed to gaol during the year is considerably larger than the previous year, and the Provost Marshal remarks that the increase is to be attributed to the number of coolies, amounting to 50, who were committed to gaol for various offences. One male coolie was tried for murder, and was convicted, but discharged by the court on a motion for an arrest of judgment. Annexed is a comparative statement of the number of prisoners convicted in 1861 and 1862 by the Supreme Court and before the magistrates, which shows a large increase under the last head during 1862 over the previous year. These convictions before magistrates were all for petty offences, and it is satisfactory to observe that the convictions by the Supreme Court of Judicature, before which the graver offences are tried, have not increased.

COMPARATIVE Statement of Convictions.

Year.	Supreme Court.		Magistrates.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1861 - -	15	2	91	16
1862 - -	15	1	148	21

I have, &c.

To Governor Walker, C.B. (Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT.

TOBAGO.

TOBAGO.

No. 9.

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor WALKER, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 60.) Windward Islands, Barbados,

MY LORD DUKE, June 17, 1863.

I HAVE the honor to forward to your Grace the Blue Book of the Island of Tobago for the year 1862, together with the usual Annual Report thereon from the Lieutenant-Governor. Tobago, June 6 1863.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) JAS. WALKER.

Enclosure in No. 9.

Encl. in No. 9.

Lieutenant-Governor DRYSDALE to Governor WALKER.

(No. 34.) Government House, Tobago,

SIR, June 6, 1863.

In my periodical Reports accompanying the Blue Books for the last six years, I have had occasion to enter minutely into details respecting the state of the colony, its laws and institutions, and the general progress and condition of its inhabitants.

TOBAGO.

2. In transmitting the Blue Book for 1862, I have but little to add in the way of comment. The sanitary condition of the island has been good, and the peace and tranquillity with which the colony has been so long favoured has happily been undisturbed.

3. Unfortunately trade has been greatly depressed, and the agricultural interests have and are still suffering from the serious depreciation in the value of colonial produce.

4. The dissolution of the Elective Legislative Assembly, and the election of members to form a new House under an enlarged franchise, and the introduction of an allotment of liberated Africans, are the only points of interest to which I think it necessary to advert, after first briefly sketching the financial position of the colony at the close of the last year.

	£	s.	d.
5. In 1861 the expenditure amounted to - - -	8,500	13	4½
„ Revenue „ - - - -	8,216	3	9
Excess of expenditure over revenue - -	£234	9	7½

	£	s.	d.
In 1862 the expenditure amounted to - - -	10,224	9	4
„ Revenue „ - - - -	10,113	1	1½
Excess of expenditure over revenue - -	£111	8	2½

The last year commenced with a balance against the colony of 621*l.* 14*s.* 2½*d.*, including a sum of 387*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* then due on account of the Hurricane Loan, and closed with an adverse balance of 482*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, including all known liabilities, the instalment of the Hurricane Loan having been paid in full.

The actual expenditure of 1862 exceeded that of 1860 by 1,196*l.* 12*s.* 4½*d.*, and that of 1861 by 1,723*l.* 15*s.* 11½*d.*

The actual revenue of 1862 exceeded that of 1860 by 1,153*l.* 2*s.* 7½*d.*, and that of 1861 by 1,896*l.* 17*s.* 4½*d.*

The value of the imports in 1862 is given at 55,375*l.* against 56,442*l.* 10*s.* in the previous year, a decrease of 867*l.* 10*s.*, whereas the estimated value of the exports during the last year is stated 75,428*l.* against 63,170*l.* in 1861, showing an increase of 2,258*l.* in favour of 1862, with a proportionate augmentation of tonnage.

6. The sugar crop of 1862 was increased by 40 per cent. over that of the preceding year, and the comparatively disproportionate increase in the value of exports is to be accounted for by the serious depreciation in the value of colonial produce.

1861.					1862.				
Sugar	2,615 hhds. 970 tierces 61 half tierces 4,173 barrels	Hhds. =3,737	Cwt. =59,013	Value £ 51,852	Sugar „ semi-fluid	3,631 hhds. 1,686 tierces 99 half tierces 4,791½ barrels 3 puncheons	Hhds. =5,271	Cwt. =83,193	Value £ 64,554

7. The annual instalments on account of the Imperial Hurricane Loan, continue to be punctually paid, and the debt has now been reduced to 5,000*l.* sterling, of which the sum of 2,650*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* is due by private borrowers.

8. On the 28th day of April the barque "Midlothian," 393 tons burthen, arrived from St. Helena, after a passage of thirty-four days, with two hundred and twenty-five (225) liberated Africans, equal to one hundred and eighty-seven and a half (187½) statute adults on board. Of this number, one hundred and forty-eight (148) were males, and seventy-seven (77) were females. Ninety-one (91) of the age of fifteen (15) and upwards, classed under the local Act as adults, and 134 minors. According to the ship's register, the immigrants were classed as 150 adults or above 12, and 75 minors under that age. The greater number of the Africans are natives of Congo.

9. The people had been well taken care of, and no death occurred on the passage. A large proportion of them were under 10 years of age; many of them appeared delicate, and three or four cases of opthalmia amongst them. One, disembarked on arrival, died in hospital two days after.

10. The immigrants were allotted among twenty-seven different estates; the adults under contracts of service for three years, as agricultural labourers; and the minors were assigned to the care and custody of responsible parties, for periods varying from one to eight years, or until they should attain the age of fifteen. The whole distributed as follows:—

To the middle district -	- 46
„ leeward „ -	- - 95
„ windward „ -	- 83

11. The law has been strictly complied with in every particular; good lodging, medical attendance, food, clothing, and allotments of land for provision grounds, have been provided, to the satisfaction of the stipendiary magistrates, under whose immediate supervision the immigrants have been placed.

12. The monthly reports received from the several district magistrates bear, with few exceptions, high testimony to the good qualities of the immigrants, who are described as docile of temper, and ready and willing to work, complying cheerfully with the orders of their employers. There have been very few complaints made against them, and in every case the matter in dispute has been easily settled, and both employer and employed are said to work harmoniously together.

13. In general, the daily task performed by the adults is considered as nearly equal to that performed by the native labourers. They are said to be fond of spending their spare time in dancing and other amusements, to the neglect of their provision grounds; but they are reported to be improving in this respect, and latterly their gardens are better cultivated, and some have even commenced to supply the market.

14. The care taken of them on the estates to which they have been allotted, reflects the highest credit upon those to whom they have been indentured or assigned, and it is pleasing to find that the attitude of the native peasantry towards them is in general exceedingly friendly.

15. In addition to the death already noticed, thirteen of the immigrants have died since their disembarkation, now a year ago. Of these, eight were minors and five adults; nine deaths having occurred in the leeward district, one in the middle district, and three in the windward district. Of the thirteen, seven were in a very delicate state of health at the time of their landing, three died of dysentery, two of consumption, and one female from exhaustion, after premature labour.

16. But little could be accomplished in the way of education and religious instruction, during the first months of the location of the Africans, owing to their ignorance of the English language. Attendance at church or chapel has, however, been made a rule, with a view of impressing them with the solemnity and importance of religion; and the experiment would appear to have succeeded to some extent, as most of them claim it as a privilege to be allowed to go to church or chapel every Sunday, when they are observed to pay marked attention to the church services.

17. Most, if not all, of them have been christened, and the names given to them are tenaciouly adhered to. The greater number are now able to repeat the Lord's Prayer and the Creed in English. A large proportion attend the schools in their neighbourhoods, and others have been formed into classes by the different ministers of religion, who teach them at hours most convenient to both parties.

18. It is the universal opinion that the introduction of these Africans has proved a valuable addition to the labouring population of the island, inasmuch as they form a body of permanent settlers who seldom leave the estate or district on or in which they have been first located.

19. It is to be regretted that no provision has been made by the local Legislature for defraying the cost of immigration, as has been done in most of these colonies. The necessity and the advantages of a well-regulated immigration of labourers is universally admitted, and were any objection or opposition offered to its promotion by the Government, there would be no end to public demonstrations and lengthy memorials, denouncing the injustice and impolicy of the act; but yet, left to themselves, and even urged by the Government to provide funds for immigration purposes, nothing is done. It is true that feeble desultory attempts have been made from time to time of late years, but no single measure has been matured or brought into active operation. At one time, an Immigration Bill is made dependent on the vain expectation of an Imperial loan; at another, it falls to the ground, owing to a variance of opinion as to the best mode of raising the funds; and last, not least, the scheme has generally failed through the opposition of those who, although they desire equally with others to have the benefit of immigration, would fain have it free of the heavy expense, which from the deteriorated value of their properties, they are unable to afford. Even at this moment, the question is once more

TOBAGO.

being discussed in the Elective Legislative Assembly; but I feel persuaded that either from the inadequacy of the means proposed, or the more than probable rejection of the bill by the Council, there is little hope of Tobago being soon restored to her place on the list of those colonies qualified to receive liberated Africans.

20. In my last Blue Book Report I remarked, at some length, on the then existing franchise, and the influence which governed the elections of members to serve in the Elective Legislative Assembly; and I expressed doubts as to any improvement being likely to result from the operation of the new Franchise Act, by which the qualifications of both electors and representatives had been considerably modified.

21. The elections have since taken place under the extended franchise, and the result has fully verified my prediction. The Elective Legislative Assembly consists, as before, of sixteen members, two for each parish and one for the town of Scarborough, and one for Plymouth. The qualification of a representative is real property, assessed at 50*l.* per annum, or a clear yearly income of 150*l.* sterling. The qualification to vote, is the possession of real property, as owner or tenant, of an annual rental of 10*l.* sterling.

22. Of 209 registered electors, only 74 exercised the privilege of voting, the number of votes recorded being 91; seven persons voting in two separate parishes, four in three parishes, and one in four different parishes, giving a proportion of about four and a half votes for each member returned; whilst in one instance two members were elected for one parish by the voice of one single individual, who himself could neither read nor write. Compared with the result of the last election, held in 1855, under the old franchise, the first election under the new Act exhibits a proportionate decrease of nearly 35 per cent. in the number of actual voters out of the number registered,—a clear indication that the enlarged franchise has not, at least on its first trial, been attended with any improvement in respect to a more general or more fair representation of the people.

23. The right to vote in two or more different parishes, nay, even in all the seven parishes of the island, which can be and so often is exercised by some of the planters, connected in some way as proprietors or attorneys with most or all of the parishes, cannot fail to influence the elections, as was unmistakeably shown on the last occasion, when six proprietors and five estates managers or overseers, were returned as members of the Assembly, the mercantile interest being altogether unrepresented; and several independent gentlemen, of long standing in the old House, having been ejected to make way for class interests, by the substitution of men unpractised in public affairs, and unacquainted with the forms of legislative proceedings.

24. Hence has arisen much difficulty and delay in the conduct of the business of legislation, and the first session of the Legislature proved completely abortive in results, notwithstanding the appointment by the House of a solicitor, with a salary of 100*l.* per annum, to assist their deliberations and guide their proceedings.

25. The chief aim of the new House would appear to be some change or modification in the form of government, as at present constituted under the Act "for the better government of the Island;" and to this effect a motion was made early in the session for leave to bring in a Bill to abolish the "Executive Committee," but the measure itself has never been brought forward; and the precise nature of the form and extent of the contemplated reform has not yet been developed.

26. For a short time, considerable agitation existed in regard to this matter, which was made the election cry; when, as a means of allaying an excitement which, I surmised, was in a great measure caused or promoted by an erroneous belief in the existence of an opposition to their wishes on the part of the local Government, I availed myself of the first favourable opportunity to express my sentiments on the question, and to give an assurance that I had no desire to impede in any way the introduction of such constitutional reforms as might be deemed necessary for the better adaptation of the form of government to the circumstances of this small community. I even expressed an opinion that some modification in the system was desirable, and invited an explicit expression of the views and wishes of both Legislative Houses, with a full exposition of the objections entertained to the existing form of government, and a clear definition of the system proposed to be substituted. I deprecated the prolonged agitation of such a question as injurious to the best interests of the colony, and having, by the frank expression of my own sentiments, removed all grounds of distrust as to the course I was prepared to pursue, I expressed a hope that, pending a decision on the matter, I might continue to receive the cordial assistance of both Legislative Houses in conducting the government of the island according to the law now in force.

27. My expectations were at once realized; a perfect calm succeeded; the Legislative Council declared that it was not expedient to make any immediate change in the form of government, and the members of the Elective Legislative Assembly contented them-

selves with reiterating their desire for a modification in the present system, which they characterized as unsuitable to the circumstances of this small colony, promising that any suggestion on my part towards effecting any wholesome change would meet with their careful consideration.

28. I have not felt myself called upon to respond to this invitation made six months ago, and since then I have heard nothing more of the contemplated measure of constitutional reform.

29. The dissolution of the Elective Legislative Assembly, consequent on the proclamation of a new Franchise Act, necessitated a change in the "Executive Committee," but owing to the number of inexperienced members in the New House, and the manifest want of confidence amongst the members themselves, which precluded all hope of unity of sentiment or unanimity of action, the greatest difficulty was experienced in re-organizing that body whose functions remained in abeyance for more than three months before I could, after much negotiation and persuasion, succeed in forming an Executive Committee.

30. The evil I apprehended most from such a state of things was the impunity it afforded to debtors on account of the Imperial Hurricane Loan, payments on this account being delayed or withheld so long as warrants could not be issued for enforcing payment of the over-due instalments. Happily no inconvenience was otherwise occasioned beyond the delay in auditing and paying certain accounts against the public.

31. Difficulties such as these, and the ever-occurring obstacles and delays which impede the transaction of the business of the Legislative Houses, and which at present involve the unfruitful sacrifice of so much valuable time, arise entirely out of the working of a system by far too complicated for a scanty population, and which I think has been not unjustly characterized by the House of Assembly itself, as altogether unsuited to the circumstances of this small colony. It is easier, however, to condemn than to remedy such an unsatisfactory state of things, and it is vain to make the attempt, for it is quite certain that any measure framed with a view to reform or modify the constitution in such a manner as to adapt the machinery of Government to the very limited resources of the colony, would at the very outset be met by a fierce denunciation of the attempt as an invasion of the sacred province of vested rights and privileges, and a base violation of the glorious institutions founded on the time-honoured model of old England, &c., &c.

32. Although the number on the school rolls is nearly equal to that reported for 1861, the average daily attendance of the children appears to have fallen off considerably. This I think may be attributed in some degree to the fact that the wholesome supervision of an inspector of schools has been wanting, the gentleman who so ably performed that office having been removed to another field of usefulness.

33. The annexed return of crimes and offences show an increase of 33 in the total number imprisoned during the year, including three cases of felony, the majority of the others being misdemeanors and convictions under the Master and Servants Act; but I am disposed to agree with the Inspector of Prisons, who states in his report that he does "not look upon this as indicating that law and order are less respected, but rather "that the one is more promptly administered, and the other not allowed to be disturbed "with impunity," a result no doubt attributable to the recent appointment of stipendiary magistrates.

34. The following reports and tabular statements accompany this report:—

1. Return of Revenue for 1862.
2. Return of Expenditure for 1862.
3. Return of the value of Imports for 1861 and 1862.
4. Return of the value of Exports for 1861 and 1862.
5. Return of Tonnage for 1861 and 1862.
6. Return of Crimes and Offences.
7. Annual Report of the Surgeon to the Common Gaol.
8. Annual Report of Inspector of Prisons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. V. DRYSDALE,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Governor Walker, C.B.

TOBAGO.

Sub-Enclosure 1 in No. 9.

RETURN, in a TABULAR FORM, for the last Year in which they can be made up, of the Gross Revenues, under their different Heads, exhibiting the Cost of Collection, and any Deductions made in their Progress to the Public Treasury.

GROSS REVENUE.

Customs.	Tonnage Port and Harbour Dues.	Taxes and Excise.	Fines and Forfeitures.	Fees of Office.	Lighthouse Dues.	Land, Casual and Territorial.	Canals and Public Works.	Immigrant Tax.	Interest.	Miscellaneous Receipts.	Gross Amount of Revenue.	Cost of Collection.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		55 12 1*										456 7 1
		3,040 10 1										not including
5,694 4 7	413 8 9	3,096 2 2	252 14 11	Nil.	87 7 3	8 0 0	95 13 4	159 6 0	Nil.	72 16 0	9,879 13 0	the Treasurer's Salary of £350.

* Arrears.

Treasury, 31st December 1862.

(Signed) CHAS. A. BERKELEY,
Public Treasurer.

Sub-Enclosure 2 in No. 9.

RETURN, in a TABULAR FORM, for the last Year in which they can be made up, of the Disbursements under their different Heads, showing the Authority under which such Disbursements were made.

EXPENDITURE.

Civil Establishment and Salaries of Public Officers.	Judicial Establishment.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Military and Fortification.	Militia.	Pensions.	Police and Gaols.	Roads and Bridges.	Works and Buildings.	Lighthouses.	Expenses of the Legislature.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	Supreme and Appeal Courts 726 2 3										
	Stipendiary Justices 405 10 0										
1,957 4 5	1,131 12 3	1,060 0 0	418 2 0	—	—	47 2 4	1,725 1 2	599 19 11½	457 16 4	107 7 6	253 17 2

(*continued.*)

Poor.	Hospitals, Lunatic Asylums, and other Charitable Institutions.	Printing.	Interest on Debts.	Immigration.	Drawbacks, &c.	Harbours, Piers, Wharfs, &c.	Miscellaneous.	Total Expenditure.	Authority.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Included below.			Arrears, 1861 387 4 7						
	209 18 8	237 0 4	414 16 3	84 15 0	—	—	596 15 2	9,688 13 1½	Appropriation Acts, 1861 and 1862, and Resolutions of the Legislature.
			802 0 10					Also £302 8s. 1d. balance from 1861; paid in 1862.	

Treasury, 31st December 1862.

(Signed) CHAS. A. BERKELEY,
Public Treasurer.

Sub-Enclosure 3 in No. 9.

A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the VALUE of the IMPORTS into the ISLAND of TOBAGO, in the Years 1861 and 1862.

Countries whence Imported.	1862.	1861.
	£	£ s.
United Kingdom - - - -	18,824*	21,859 0
British West Indies - - -	32,901	29,179 0
British North America - - -	1,181	2,823 0
Holland - - - -	156	—
United States of America - - -	2,205	2,429 0
Venezuela - - - -	108	2 10
Foreign West Indies—of Denmark -	—	16 0
Ditto of Sweden -	—	134 0
Total - - -	55,375	56,442 10

* A considerable diminution in the importation of Cotton Goods from Great Britain in 1862.

(Signed) CHAS. A. BERKELEY,
Treasurer's Office, 31st December, 1862. Treasurer and Controller of Customs.

Sub-Enclosure 4 in No. 9.

A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the VALUE of the EXPORTS from the COLONY of TOBAGO, in the Years 1861 and 1862.

Countries whither exported.	1862.	1861.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - - -	67,006	60,399
British West Indies - - -	7,928	2,737
British North America - - -	442	34
Foreign West Indies—of Denmark -	52	—
Total - - -	75,428	63,170

Note.—The *Sugar* crop was increased in 1862 over that of 1861 by 40 per cent., but a depreciation in the *value* of Sugar in 1862, accounts for the comparatively disproportionate increase in the *value* of Exports in 1862 over that of 1861.

(Signed) CHAS. A. BERKELEY,
Treasurer's Office, 31st December, 1862. Treasurer and Controller of Customs.

Sub-Enclosure 5 in No. 9.

MEMORANDUM of TONNAGE of VESSELS INWARDS and OUTWARDS, in the Years 1861 and 1862.

1861.

Inwards.

	No.	Tons.
No. of vessels with cargoes - -	75	5,569
Ditto in ballast - -	3	594
Total tonnage inwards 1861 -		6,163

Outwards.

	No.	
No. of vessels with cargoes - -	58	5,204
Ditto in ballast - -	17	1,005
Total tonnage outwards 1861 -		6,209

1862.

Inwards.

	No.	Tons.
No. of vessels with cargoes - -	79	6,224
Ditto in ballast - -	8	1,238
Total tonnage inwards 1862 -		7,462

Outwards.

	No.	
No. of vessels with cargoes - -	77	6,697
Ditto in ballast - -	10	396
Total tonnage outwards 1862 -		7,093

(Signed) C. A. BERKELEY,
Controller of Customs, &c.

TOBAGO.

Sub-Enclosure 6 in No. 9.

RETURN of CRIMES and OFFENCES.

Years.	Felons.	Misdemeanors.	Other Offences.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Centesimal Proportion.	Debt.
1851	11	46	61	118	—	—	·78	10
1852	14	62	55	131	13	—	·87	4
1853	24	74	95	193	62	—	1·28	8
1854	22	77	45	144	—	49	·96	14
1855	7	58	52	117	—	27	·78	10
1856	5	57	24	86	—	31	·57	5
1857	5	41	18	64	—	22	·42	10
1858	4	41	40	85	21	—	·56	4
1859	3	30	31	64	—	21	·42	3
1860	7	47	28	82	18	—	·54	2
1861	—	63	33	96	14	—	·64	—
1862	3	59	67	129	33	—	·84	1

Note.—The number of misdemeanors given above for 1862, viz., 59, includes 28 cases of summary convictions for petty thefts.

The 67 classed under the head of other offences comprised convictions under—

Vagrant Act	1
Police Act	19
Trespass Act	1
Master and Servants Act	34
Tax Act	2
Road Act	3
Mariner's Act	7
Total	67

Sub-Enclosure 7 in No. 9.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Attendant of the Common Gaol.

The year 1862 has not been characterized by any epidemic or other disease of a serious nature.

Measles attacked several of the inmates, but only two of the prisoners had the disease. It was mild in type, and the usual therapeutical treatment soon effected recovery. The prisoners generally have been healthy, and seem to bear a less anamic appearance than some months previously. This is no doubt attributable to the good quality of their food, and their regular periods of partaking of them. This, with strict cleanliness, both in their persons and dwelling apartments, have doubtlessly contributed much in effecting this desirable object.

The usual sanitary regulations are strictly enforced.

(Signed) JOHN SCOTT ELLIOTT, M.D.
Surgeon to the Gaol.

Sub-Enclosure 8 in No. 9.

SIR, Tobago, 30th January 1863.

I BEG leave to forward my Report on the Common Gaol of Tobago for the year ending the 31st December 1862.

On the day just mentioned, there were imprisoned in that establishment 19 persons, viz.:—

	Males.	Females.
Convicted felons	8	—
„ of petty theft	6	—
„ of assault	4	1 = 19

No commitment dates earlier than the 4th October 1859, and the latest as to the Court of Queen's Bench is dated the 7th October 1862.

Four of the felons are under sentences of penal servitude, which vary from 3 years to 14, three for 12 months, and one for life.

A retrospective view, extending to the year 1848, reveals the fact that in the month of October of that year there were 66 prisoners confined in the common gaol, the greatest number, it is supposed, that has been confined there for any one given time. Travelling back from that period to the one now under review, it is pleasant to notice that this number has not again been reached; for, notwithstanding some fluctuation during this period, the tendency has nevertheless been decidedly downwards, and although the number now reported, set against that of the corresponding period of 1861, shows an increase of five, yet I do not look upon this as indicating that law and order are less respected; but rather that the one is more promptly administered, and the other not allowed to be disturbed with impunity.

The prison was visited by measles in the month of June; the matron and a young relative, and two of the then gaoler's children were laid up with this disease; two convicts were also seized with it, but it did not spread beyond this, nor did it survive the month. With this exception, the prison still maintains its character for salubrity.

I have no reason to modify my report of last year as to the cleanliness and order of the establishment in its entirety; but the roof of the main building requires immediate attention. I much fear nothing short of complete reconstruction will suffice; the turnkey complains that the roof over his rooms are also leaky.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor found it necessary to suspend the gaoler from his duties for six months during the year; his place was ably filled by Mr. William Richardson up to the 11th of July, at which time Mr. Grant resumed his duties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGALD YEATES,
Inspector of Prisons.

J. H. Beresford, Esq.
Colonial Secretary.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor WALKER, C.B. to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 140.)

Windward Islands, Barbados,
June 26, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace the Blue Book of the Island of St. Vincent for 1862, together with the Despatch by which it was accompanied from the Lieutenant-Governor.

St. Vincent. No. 84, June 12, 1863

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES WALKER.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 10.

(No. 84.)

Government House, St. Vincent,
June 12, 1863.

SIR

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency in duplicate the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1862.

2. I think it will be regarded as an improvement in the neatness of their preparation that such portions of these returns as admit of being put into type have been printed. Much less space is thus occupied by the tables of taxes and duties, fees, legislation, council and assembly, and the list of civil establishment, while their appearance is clearer.

3. The substance of these statistics upon this occasion, leaving out what has been the consequence of the riots, presents few or no features upon which I could offer any commentary at length with advantage. The character of the year has been determined by the depression in the value of West Indian produce. It has not been one of progress, but little having been accomplished beyond the preparation of ground for future improvement. Financial difficulties gnored, evaded, or inadequately treated, will still produce their effects in different forms on the work of all departments of the public service which are insufficiently supported; and when the time of the Legislature itself is consumed by repeated and unavoidable applications for the supply of an exhausted treasury, little leisure is afforded for attention to legislation for general improvement. Such effort as could be made to strive against the neglect of public affairs, which was engendered by the gloomy prospects of the planters, upon whose prosperity all other interests in these colonies more or less depend, was interrupted by the serious disturbances among the labouring population in September. The remainder of the year was entirely occupied with the consequences flowing from those misfortunes. These

ST. VINCENT. circumstances have formed the subject of special correspondence so lately that no good purpose could be served by re-entering upon them here; and beyond what might so be furnished, there is little which I could at present add with propriety to the general remarks I had the honour to submit when I forwarded the returns for 1861.

4. Though, however, I can report no progress during 1862, I trust that there has been no irrecoverable retrogression, and even the riots produced the germ of improvement in important particulars. For I may add, that since the commencement of the current year, not only have considerable additions to the previous sources of revenue been made, but due provision has been effected for the establishment of a protective force, sufficient, I should hope, to prevent any recurrence of the expensive and alarming disorders from which St. Vincent suffered so heavily in 1862. And in my next annual report I hope to be able to dwell more at large and with greater satisfaction upon the details of public business.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE.

His Excellency J. Walker, Esq., C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 11.

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor WALKER, C.B. to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 116.)

Windward Islands, Barbados,
May 29, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace the Blue Book of St. Lucia for the year 1862, together with an excellent report from the Administrator of the Government on the financial and general condition of the colony during the year.

St. Lucia, No. 70, May 11, 1863.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES WALKER.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 11.

SIR, Government Office, St. Lucia, May 11, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this colony for the past year in duplicate, with the usual abstracts and comparative returns annexed.

Revenue.

2. The estimated revenue for 1862 was 13,000*l.*, and the actual receipts for that period amounted to 14,688*l.* 19*s.* 11¾*d.* But in order to obtain a fair comparison, the sum of 1,789*l.* 10*s.*, consisting of 822*l.* 6*s.* accruing from sources of revenue which were not in existence at the time the estimates were framed, and a further sum of 966*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, which was taken from the Immigration Fund at the close of the year, and applied to general revenue for purposes which will be mentioned further on, in this report, must be deducted. This would reduce the general revenue to 12,899*l.* 19*s.* 1¾*d.*, which falls short of the estimate by 100*l.* 0*s.* 10½*d.*, and of the actual revenue of the previous year by no less than 1,327*l.* 5*s.* 3¼*d.*

3. This is mainly attributable to the diminished receipts in two great sources of revenue, viz., imports and rum duties:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1861 the imports amounted to - - -	6,455	18	5
Last year they fell down to - - -	5,677	3	11¾
Deficiency -	£778	14	5¼

	£	s.	d.
In 1861 the rum duties were - - -	5,099	2	9
In 1862 they only reached - - -	4,495	7	9
Deficiency -	£603	15	0

4. The fall in the import duties, of which the tariff is the same as during the previous year, must be referred to the low price of produce, and the consequent depression in trade. The high price of cotton manufactures has caused a diminution in their importation, and indeed a reduction has taken place, more or less, in the supply of most if not all manufactured goods:

Cottons, Linens, and Woollens—		£	s.	d.
Imported in 1861 - -	value	27,743	8	9
„ 1862 - - -	„	19,254	3	4
Difference in value -		£8,489	5	5

Which causes a decrease in duty of 424*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*

The British manufactured goods imported in	£	s.	d.
1861 were valued at - - - -	37,467	0	0
Ditto, in 1862 - - - -	32,439	0	0
Deficiency -	£5,028	0	0

5. In the articles of food, of which there is the greatest consumption, the amount imported was greater in 1862 than during the previous year:

	Quantity.	1861.	1862.	Increase in 1862.
Corn and grain - -	Bushels	2,863	3,548	685
Corn, meal - -	Barrels	84	1,346	1,262
Fish, salted - -	Qtls.	8,383	8,502	119
Flour, wheat - - -	Barrels	5,536	8,864	3,328
Meat, salted - -	lbs.	144,135	170,121	25,986
Rice - - -	lbs.	449,958	771,502	321,544

The consumption of tobacco has, from exceptional causes, diminished:

		1861.	1862.	Decrease 1862.
Tobacco, unmanufactured -	Pounds	76,351	45,519	30,832

And also of wines, the lighter description of which are more used in this colony than in many others:

		1861.	1862.	Decrease 1862.
Wines - - -	Gallons	9,445	5,925	3,520

6. With regard to the decrease in the rum duties, I would observe, that the low price of that article in 1862 would have led one to expect increased consumption, and would not have lessened the excise duty, which is laid at so much per gallon, according to proof and not "ad valorem."

7. Besides what is styled general revenue, there is revenue raised which does not appear in the estimates, but of which separate accounts are kept. These are as follows:—

	Amount collected during 1862.		
Immigration Fund (exclusive of head money paid by planters to whom immigrants have been assigned, and commutation money paid by immigrants) - - - - -	£ 1,125	s. 15	d. 8
Roads and Bridges - - - -	1,055	0	6¼
Education Fund - - - -	479	12	4
Total -	£2,660	8	6¼

ST. LUCIA.

8. This would augment the public revenues to 15,560*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, and if to this is added the amount raised under the Hospital Ordinance (822*l.* 6*s.*), and the head money, &c. on immigrants, it is swelled to the sum of 16,823*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*

Export Duties.

9. The export duties raised in this colony are devoted to three purposes; 1st. To paying the interest on the Imperial Loan of 15,000*l.* granted to this colony for immigration and forming a Sinking Fund for its redemption.

2ndly. To paying the interest on the Imperial Loan of 3,000*l.* for roads and bridges;

3rdly. To forming a contribution to the Educational Fund.

10. The following table exhibits the tariff of duties, and the portions which are allocated to these three services. More than sufficient being raised to satisfy the "Road and Bridges" Loan, the balance is appropriated to the fund for their repairs:—

	Immigration.	Roads and Bridges.	Education.	Total.
Sugar	3*d.* per 100 lbs.	1½*d.* per 100 lbs.		4½*d.* per 100 lbs.
Rum	1*s.* per pun.	2*s.* per pun.		3*s.* per pun.
Molasses	6*d.* „	1*s.* „		1*s.* 6*d.* „
Coffee			1*s.* per 100 lbs.	1*s.* per 100 lbs.
Cocoa			6*d.* „	6*d.* „
Tarine Manioc			1*d.* per pot.	1*d.* per pot.
Logwood			8*s.* per ton.	8*s.* per ton.
Charcoal			2*s.* per barrel.	2*s.* per barrel.
Firewood			4*s.* per cord.	4*s.* per cord.
Hides			6*d.* each.	6*d.* each.

The total amount raised last year was 1,888*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, of which 1,733*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* was collected upon rum, sugar, and molasses, and 155*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* on the other articles.

Imports and Exports.

11. The following comparative table exhibits the imports and exports for the last five years. Their value is much less than in the preceding years, compared with 1861. There was a decrease in the value of imports last year of 16,457*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, and in exports of 8,329*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*:—

	Imports. £	*s.*	*d.*	Exports. £	*s.*	*d.*
1858	102,035	13	1	94,659	3	6
1859	103,973	2	1	101,879	2	4
1860	97,900	1	0	105,947	4	4
1861	110,063	19	8	96,321	8	2
1862	93,606	15	1	87,991	15	0

Expenditure.

12. The following table exhibits the general expenditure of the colony for the last five years.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1858	12,076	18	5
1859	12,498	14	10
1860	12,151	3	3
1861	14,137	7	3
1862	15,802	9	1

13. The expenditure for the past year may be classed under the following heads:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Ordinary expenditure	12,532	13	1
Expenditure for which supplementary estimates were passed, namely, for "Lights and Buoys," "Fire-proof Safes," and "Lamp for Tapion"	363	11	11
Expense of the three hospitals, established at Castries, Soufriere, and Vieux Fort, principally for immigrants and of medical attendance upon estates	1,633	15	9
One-third of the expense, so far as it had then been ascertained, attending the introduction into St. Lucia of the coolie immigrants by the "Ulysses," transferred to the Immigration Fund	1,272	8	4
Total	£15,802	9	1

14. The expense of these hospitals having far exceeded the special revenue raised for their support, and as they are essentially immigrant hospitals, it was deemed expedient towards the close of last year to pass an ordinance, providing that the excess of expenditure over special revenue already incurred should be paid back from the immigration fund to the general revenue. A balance was accordingly struck on the 27th December, and 966*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* transferred from the immigration fund to the credit of the latter account. During the present and future years, the whole of the expense will be borne by the immigration fund, and the special revenue will be carried to its credit. Provision is, however, made to reimburse it for the expenditure on any persons other than immigrants who may be patients in these establishments. The charter, &c. of the Ulysses having been defrayed in the first instance from the immigration fund, a vote for one-third of the amount was taken, so as to replace that portion which is deemed to be a fair contribution from general revenue for immigration purposes. A subsequent vote for 355*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* has also been taken this year, being $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Indian expenses for the season 1861–1862, which had been covered by the immigration fund.

15. Besides the expenditure, which is covered by estimates, and which is given in the above table, there are three accounts for which no estimates are taken, and of which no mention is made in the annual appropriation ordinance, except with regard to the grant of 500*l.* for education. These are "Immigration Roads and Bridges," and "Education," and the expenditure under these heads during 1862 was as follows:—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Immigration, including interest on and sinking fund for the imperial loan of 15,000*l.*, and amount transferred to general revenue being excess of expenditure over special receipts on account of hospitals, but exclusive of the Indian expenses - - - -	6,529 7 7	
Amount of Indian expenses for season 1861–1862, so far as has been ascertained - -	1,066 19 10	
		7,596 7 5
Roads and Bridges.—Repairs of public roads and bridges, and interest on and sinking fund for redemption of loan for 3,000*l.* - - - - -		1,001 8 3
Education - - - - - -		1,006 1 2
Total - - - - -		£9,603 16 10

16. Deducting from this sum 966*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, which is merely a transfer, and 1,772*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* from the general expenditure for similar reasons, and we obtain the sum of 22,667*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* as the total expenditure in this colony for 1862. But it must be borne in mind that the large amount incurred under the head of immigration is mainly referrable to the introduction of a cargo of coolies in the beginning of that year, and that part of their cost has to be repaid by the planters to whom they have been assigned.

Local Revenue.

17. The only local revenue consists of the rates and taxes raised by the corporation of Castries from the inhabitants of that town, which defrays the salaries of the municipal officers and pay of their police, is applied to keeping in repair the wharves, which are very extensive, the streets, bridges, waterworks, rent of town hall, printing, and other contingent expenses.

18. The principal sources of revenue last year were a tax on houses and lots of land of five per cent. on their annual rental, or estimated value, wharfage, and water dues, fees received for use of slaughter and meat market, market houses, licenses for selling tobacco, &c. The total amount raised in 1862 was 883*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*

19. The expenditure during the same period was 886*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, of which 223*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* was applied to the repairs of the town wharves, and 175*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* to the maintenance of the municipal police force. With regard to the latter establishment, I would add that an ordinance has lately been passed under which the municipal and colonial force are amalgamated, and form one body, under a superintendent. By it the corporation guarantee to pay towards the general force the sum of 170*l.* annually, and Government undertake to place four constables daily at the disposal of the mayor and corporation for municipal purposes.

ST. LUCIA.

There is no doubt but that the system will work better than the one lately in force, when there were two bodies of police in the town of Castries, one under the control of the special magistrate of the first district, and the other employed and paid by the corporation out of their funds.

Public Debt.

20. The public debt of this colony remains at 18,000*l.*, as heretofore, but the sinking fund which is being formed for its redemption has of course increased. The debt consists of two loans to St. Lucia, under the authority of the imperial Act 11 & 12 Vict. c. 130, as follows :—

	£
Loan contracted in 1852 for the repairs of "roads and bridges"	3,000
Loan contracted in 1854 for promoting coolie immigration	15,000
Total	£18,000

Of these loans 3,000*l.* is redeemable on 1st January 1873, 10,000*l.* on the 1st July 1879, and 5000*l.* on the 1st July 1880. The interest which they bear is 4 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly, and until recently, 2½ per cent. was the amount paid, also half-yearly, to form a sinking fund for their redemption. Last year, however, it was discovered that this would not be sufficient for the purpose, and an ordinance was passed in July, by which it was provided, in accordance with calculations made by Mr. Finlayson, the Actuary to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, that a sum not exceeding 610*l.* should be paid annually in half-yearly instalments, in addition to the 75*l.* paid for the reduction of the 3,000*l.* loan.

As the first half-yearly instalment had been forwarded to the agents for the Crown colonies before this law could come into force, it was specially provided that a sum not exceeding 422*l.* should be paid for the second instalment in 1862, besides the half of 75*l.* before mentioned.

21. The whole amount paid both for interest, bank commission, and to form a sinking fund for the redemption of the loans during the past year, was as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
One year's interest on loan of 3,000*l.*	120	0	0			
Bank commission	0	12	0			
On account of sinking fund	75	0	0			
				195	12	0
One year's interest on loan of 15,000*l.*	600	0	0			
Bank commission	3	0	0			
On account of sinking fund	609	10	0			
				1,212	10	0
Total				£1,408	2	0

22. The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund account report, that at the beginning of of the year, when all the remittances for 1862 had been received and applied to purchase stock, they held stock in the 3 per cent. Reduced Annuities amounting to 2,261*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*

Roads and Bridges.

23. The special revenue raised for the redemption of the loan of 3,000*l.*, and for the repairs of the public roads and bridges last year, was as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Export duty	607	9	2
Commutation money	368	0	0
Mileage	55	17	1¼
Fines	23	14	2
	£1,055	0	6¼

24. Against this, the expenditure has been :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For interest and sinking fund on the loan for 3,000*l.*, for which the export duty is raised in the first instance	195	12	0
Repairs of roads and bridges, and sundry incidental expenses	805	16	5
	£1,001	8	5

At the commencement of the year there was a balance to the credit of the account of 860*l.* 4*s.* 1¾*d.*, and at the close, of 913*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*

25. The principal repairs of the roads are effected by statute labour, and some alterations have been made in the road ordinance of 1857, which took effect this year, with a view of rendering the road service lighter, lessening the commutation money, and making its mode of payment more easy.

26. The object of the amending ordinance was to obtain more commutation money and less statute labour, as it was considered that hired labour, which could be better applied, was more valuable than the system which had hitherto prevailed, and, indeed, if the generality, by degress, fell into paying instead of working, a road tax would in effect be established, and a fund formed for the repair of roads, which would tend to their more permanent improvement.

27. Under the ordinance of 1857, every male between the ages of 16 and 60 (except those paying house tax in Castries), were rendered liable to give six days labour on the roads in the district in which he resided, which he could commute by a payment of eight shillings.

In default of his not either working or commuting, a fine varying from 12*s.* to 20*s.* was imposed, and if this was not paid, with costs of summons, &c., he could be imprisoned for a term varying from eight to fifteen days.

28. This ordinance worked very badly; many preferred going to gaol rather than work or pay, and when this class became numerous it was impossible to crowd up the gaol with persons who, whilst they did no work, were rationed at the expense of the colony.

29. To remedy these evils, the following alterations were made, which, so far as they have been tried, I consider are a decided improvement on the old system.

30. The statute labour, which formerly was given at one period only, is divided into two periods of three days each. The commutation money is reduced from 8*s.* to 6*s.*, being at the rate of 1*s.* per day; and is similarly made payable in two instalments, at the two periods named for road service.

In default of payment by those who have elected to commute, within one week after the appointed time to turn out, an extra shilling is imposed in addition as a fine, which, with the three shillings commutation, is sued for and recovered by distress and levy, the same as any other debt, on the goods and chattels of the defaulter. For those who take no notice of the summons, and who neither work nor pay, a penalty of two shillings is inflicted for each day's absence, which is recoverable in the same way as the commutation money. It is only where there is not sufficient distress, that imprisonment is resorted to, on a scale of one day for each shilling sued for.

31. In this way those who, possessing property, have hitherto preferred to go to goal rather than commute or work, will be compelled to pay.

Public Works and Buildings.

32. During last year two buoys were laid down in the Harbour of Castries, for the convenience of the mail steamers and the shipping generally. One is at the mouth of the harbour, and the other within a short distance of the town. Vessels of considerable tonnage can lie even at the inner buoy. Before it was laid down, H.M.S. "Cadmus" anchored near the spot where it is now placed. They have proved of great convenience, and have added much to the advantages of a harbour, which, for its capacity, facilities for loading and unloading, and security against hurricanes, can class as one of the best in the West Indies.

33. A new lamp, for the convenience of the royal mail steamers in making the harbour at night, was received last year from Messrs. Wilkins and Co., the light-makers to the Trinity House, and placed on the Tapion Rock. Before this, there were two common oil lamps, which gave a very insufficient light. The one now used is fitted with a dioptric apparatus. The light is ruby colour, and has been seen distinctly at a distance of six miles.

Legislation.

34. Nine ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council last year, all of which have been confirmed.

35. No. 1., 31st January 1862, "To provide for the payment of the expense of the "immigration of certain liberated Africans into St. Lucia."

ST. LUCIA.

No. 3. 31st March 1862, "To amend the laws now in force in this island, relating to "African immigration." These two ordinances were passed to provide for an expenditure, which it was stated would have to be defrayed by the Colonial Government, upon any Africans assigned to St. Lucia after the 1st of April, and to make alterations in the ordinances in force with regard to this class of immigrants. Hitherto, they had been landed in the West Indies, free of charge. The first ordinance authorises 3,750*l.* to be applied for the expenses attending their introduction; 2*s.* 3*d.* to be defrayed by the immigration fund, and 1*s.* 3*d.* from the general revenue. In order to reimburse a portion of the expense, the employers to whom Africans are assigned are to pay 5*l.* 10*s.* for all 18 years of age and upwards, namely, 30*s.* on assignment and 40*s.* in each of the subsequent years of their indenture, which is for three years. For Africans between 12 and 18, a proportionate scale of fees or indenture duty, is to be fixed by the governor. The other ordinance was passed to supply an omission in the laws previously in force with regard to the apprenticeship of liberated Africans, who, on their arrival in the colony, might want but a short time to complete the age of 18 years, up to which age only they could be indentured. It also makes better provision for their care and maintenance, by establishing a fixed scale of rations and wages for them, and for their medical care, which is similar to that provided for coolie immigrants.

36. No. 2., 31st January 1862, "To enable the governor to prohibit the exportation "of arms and military stores from the colony." This ordinance authorises the governor, by proclamation, to prohibit carrying coastwise, or the exportation from St. Lucia of arms and military stores, and provides a penalty, not exceeding 200*l.* and not less than 5*l.*, for any violation of such proclamation.

36. No. 4., 29th July 1862, "For fixing rates and duties to be raised for the public "service of the year 1863, and for appropriating the same." This is the annual tax and appropriation ordinance which is passed after the estimates have been considered. The only difference in it from that of the previous year, is the insertion of a clause prohibiting the sale of spirituous liquors in retail liquor licensed shops on Sunday. The town of Castries was exempted from this regulation, but the corporation have since passed a bye-law for a similar purpose.

37. No. 5., 29th July 1862, "To increase the sinking fund for the redemption "of the imperial loans raised in St. Lucia." The objects of this ordinance have already been explained in the preceding paragraph relative to the public debt (No. 20).

38. No. 6., 22nd October 1862, "The amended road ordinance." For an explanation of the provisions of this ordinance I would refer to paragraphs (No. 29, 30, and 31.)

39. No. 7., 1st December 1862, "To facilitate public business by providing for the "prepayment of postage on inter-colonial letters." This ordinance was passed for the purpose of making reciprocal agreements with the other West Indian colonies, to establish a system of compulsory prepayment of all the postage on inter-colonial letters, as suggested by the post office authorities, and recommended by his Grace the Secretary of State. Under it an arrangement can be made with any other colony, where a similar system and rates of postage prevail to collect all the postage on letters at the post office from which they are despatched. Provision is also made by which either party to the contract can determine it on giving six months notice to the other side.

Under the authority conferred upon me by this ordinance, I have already entered into postal agreements on behalf of this colony, with your Excellency, on behalf of Barbados, and with the Governors of Trinidad and Demerara, the Lieutenant-Governors of British Honduras, Grenada, and Tobago, the Administrator of St. Christophers, and the Presidents of Montserrat and the Virgin islands.

40. No. 8., 15th December 1862, "To establish volunteer corps in this colony." I have reported on this ordinance under the head of "Militia."

41. No. 9., 15th December 1862, "To make further provision in respect to the "expense incurred by the establishment and maintenance of hospitals at the towns "of Castries, Soufriere, and Vieux Fort." The objects of this ordinance have been explained in paragraph No. 14.

Religion.

42. The greater part of the inhabitants belong to the Roman Catholic faith. There is no alteration in the number of the Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy. Of the former there are two, and of the latter nine. The Protestant ministers receive 200*l.* each from the colonial funds and 100*l.* each from the bishop. The Roman Catholic clergy receive 100*l.* per annum from the colony, and have a presbytery, which is

maintained from the church funds. They also collect fees on marriages, burials, baptisms, &c., the amounts of which for last year are shown by their returns to be as follows:—

Amount of Fees.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Cure of Castries	105	4	7
„ Dennery	30	0	0
„ Micoud	32	3	10
„ Vieux Fort	20	0	0
„ Laborie	20	0	0
„ Choiseul	39	11	8
„ Soufriere	74	0	0
„ Anse La Raye	16	12	0

There is no return from Gros Islet, owing to changes which have taken place in the ministry of that parish.

Education.

43. The funds for educational purposes last year were as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Balance from 1861	267	15	6
Export Duties £155 8 5			
Boat and hawkers' licences 28 0 2			
Fines and penalties 296 3 9			
Grant from general revenue 500 0 0			
	979	12	4
Total	£1,247	7	10

Or an increase over receipts of last year of 89*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* The estimated receipts for 1862 amounted to 850*l.*, which, with the balance of 267*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, made 1,117*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* Of this sum the Board of Education placed 575*l.* at the disposal of the Protestant, and 542*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* at the disposal of the Roman Catholic committee.

44. The amount handed over to the Protestant committee, was allotted to the trustees of the Mico Charity, with the exception of 6*l.* for the Secretary to the Board. The payments for Roman Catholic institutions were as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Schools in Castries	198	5	0
„ Gros Islet	32	10	0
„ Micoud	68	0	0
Lady Superioress of Convent	120	0	0
Contribution for Secretary to the Board, 1 year and 3 months	7	10	0
	£426	5	0

which, together with commission on revenue collected (3*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*) made a total expenditure from colonial funds of 1,006*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*

45. But to this must be added the amount contributed by the trustees of the Mico Charity, which amounted to 1,064*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*, making the total expenditure on education in the colony during 1862, 2,070*l.* 2*s.*

46. There are eleven public and free schools, under the direction of the trustees of the Mico Charity, and one private school, kept by Mrs. Cooper, the wife of the Superintendent. There are also five public and free Roman Catholic schools, under the charge of the Roman Catholic clergy and the nuns of the convent of St. Joseph, and a boarding school, also kept by the nuns, to which no public money is contributed. The following table exhibits the number of scholars last year compared with 1861, which shews a slight increase in favour of 1862.

	1861.	1862.	Increase. 1862.	Decrease. 1862.
Mico schools	699	766	67	—
Do. infant schools	239	213	—	26
Roman Catholic schools	451	458	7	—
Nuns' boarding school	66	62	—	4
Mrs. Cooper's school	10	17	7	—
Total	1,465	1,516	81	30

ST. LUCIA.

Militia.

47. The Militia ordinance is not actually repealed, but at the same time cannot be worked. An attempt was made to call out that body in the early part of the year, before I assumed the administration of the Government, which utterly failed. In anticipation of the withdrawal of the garrison, a volunteer ordinance was passed last year. It provided for the enrolment of two rifle corps at Castries and Soufriere, to consist of not less than 40 men each, one artillery corps of not less than 30 men, and two cavalry troops of not less than 20 men each, at Soufriere and Vieux Fort. Uniform, arms, and accoutrements were to be furnished free of expense to the non-commissioned officers and privates, and the qualification for a volunteer was rather higher than that for the militia. Each trooper was to provide his own horse, saddle, and bridle, which was his sole qualification. All volunteers were exempted from road service, which may be considered as the remission of an annual tax of six shillings. Notwithstanding these liberal terms, I regret to state that at the present time not a single corps is formed.

Prisoners.—Crime.

48. The gaol returns show an increase of prisoners last year over 1861 of 160. The following table shows the committals during the last five years:—

1858	288
1859	473
1860	595
1861	401
1862	561

There were 157 cases of sickness during the year, but no deaths.

Immigration.

49. The immigrants introduced into the colony in 1862, were 467 in number; of these 287 were coolies, who arrived in the month of February from Calcutta in the Ulysses, and 180 liberated Africans, of whom 63 arrived in the Ulysses, and 117 in the Damietta during the same month.

50. The number of coolies in the colony on the 31st December 1861 was 1,023, making altogether 1,490 immigrants. Out of these 56 have died, and there have been 29 births, leaving 1,463 coolies and Africans at the close of 1862. The system for medical attendance having proved inefficient, an alteration was made by which Government provided for this service; at the same time certain charges were imposed towards meeting the expense. Three hospitals were opened at the beginning of 1862, at Castries, Soufriere, and Vieux Fort, principally for the accommodation of immigrants. The establishment in Castries is for those in the first and second districts, the hospital at Soufriere for those of the third, and the building at Vieux Fort for those of the fourth district of the island. The estates in the first two districts on which immigrants are located, are divided between two medical officers, one of whom attends also the Castries hospital. Similarly the immigrants in the third and fourth districts are divided between four medical gentlemen, two in each district, who attend jointly the hospitals at Soufriere and Vieux Fort. They are bound to visit each estate once a fortnight, and oftener if required, and send in those who are sick to hospital, or attend them upon the plantations, as may be considered best for the patients.

51. The cost of medical and hospital staff and expenses, including allowance for medicines, was last year 1,633*l.* 15*s.* Towards meeting this expenditure an annual tax of 10*s.* per head is paid by the employers of immigrants, with a half charge for children, and 6*d.* for each day any immigrant is in hospital. This amounted in 1862 to 822*l.* 6*s.*, leaving an excess of 811*l.* 9*s.* expenditure over special revenue, which by a recent ordinance is borne by the immigration fund instead of the general revenue.

52. The following table exhibits the results of the hospitals last year:—

	Immigrants admitted.	Immigrants discharged.	Deaths.
Castries Hospital	192	158	18
Soufriere „	211	176	18
Vieux Fort „	105	88	5
Totals	508	422	41

53. Drunkenness amongst the coolies has diminished, from the closing of grog shops on Sundays, and the prohibition of the issue of any spirituous liquors to them on credit. An attempt was made last year to induce them to deposit their savings in the Colonial Bank, through the Executive, any loss being guaranteed to them, but without success. They still prefer carrying their earnings about their persons, or burying them in the ground, which it need hardly be observed leads to frequent loss and thefts.

Agriculture.

54. The crop of 1862 fell short of that of the previous year, and the low price of produce has much depressed the agricultural interest, and, as a natural consequence, all other classes in the colony.

Years.	Sugar.	Molasses.	Rum.	Cocoa.
	Lbs.	Galls.	Galls.	Lbs.
1861 - -	9,594,000	115,680	11,040	238,213
1862 - -	8,762,415	104,800	8,275	191,392
Decrease -	831,585	10,880	2,765	46,821

Population.

55. The population of St. Lucia, based on the Census of 1861, and corrected by the births and deaths since, is 27,480, of whom 13,636 are males and 13,844 females.

Miscellaneous.

56. During the past year it was announced that Her Majesty's Government had finally determined to withdraw the garrison from this station. In pursuance of this arrangement, a company of the 1st West India Regiment, was removed in December last, leaving a company of the 1/14 Regiment, which it is expected will leave very shortly. The efforts which have been made to raise volunteer corps in anticipation of their departure have already been noticed, and an ordinance for augmenting and re-organizing the police force, which was introduced into the Council last year, has been recently passed, and the force is now in course of formation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. GRANT,
Administrator of the Government.

His Excellency James Walker, Esq., C.B.,
Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosures.

Sub-Enclosures.

ABSTRACT RETURN from Blue Book 1860, 1861, and 1862.

REVENUE.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes, and Miscellaneous Revenue.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1860	5,904 4 11	—	630 10 5	7,068 7 11	13,603 3 3	771 5 2½	
1861	6,455 18 5	—	700 17 6	7,070 7 6	14,227 4 5	624 1 2	
1862	5,677 3 11¾	—	620 13 10	8,391 2 2	14,688 19 11¾	461 15 6¾	

EXPENDITURE, COLONIAL.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Poor.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s.d	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1860	3,228 7 2	2,356 19 4	1,325 5 5	614 10 4	1,013 18 0	1,154 5 9	2,457 17 3	12,151 3 3	—	347 11 7¾
1861	3,243 4 4	2,499 6 3	1,308 6 8	768 15 4	967 8 1	1,190 7 11	4,159 18 7	14,137 7 2	1,986 3 11	—
1862	3,121 12 9	3,108 5 7	1,244 6 6	825 6 8	952 15 8	1,070 6 8	5,479 15 3	15,802 9 1	1,665 1 11	—

ST. LUCIA.

EXPENDITURE, LOCAL AND PAROCHIAL.

Year.	Education.	Roads.	All other Parochial Charges.	Total.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1860 - -	1,024 1 0	455 9 0	1,257 19 10	2,737 9 10	
1861 - -	961 6 9	1,397 12 9	982 10 11½	3,341 10 5½	
1862 - - -	1,006 1 2	1,001 18 3	886 13 2½	2,894 12 7½	

EXPENDITURE, GREAT BRITAIN.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1860 - - -	1,477 0 0	8,984 6 11	10,461 6 11	
1861 - - -	1,405 9 11	7,524 12 7	8,930 2 6	
1862 - - -	452 8 10	6,216 4 0	6,668 12 10	

POPULATION.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1860 - - -	12,755	13,890	27,141	
1861 - - -	12,383	13,338	26,721	
1862 - - -	13,636	13,844	27,480	

LAND.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Acreage under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1860 - - -	Unknown	6,042¼	
1861 - -	,,	6,210¼	
1862 - - -	,,	7,043	

COINS AND CURRENCY.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.	Remarks.
1860 - - -	Estimated at £35,000	Estimated at £ 8,750	
1861 - -	,, 35,000	,, 12,500	
1862 - - -	,, 30,000	,, 12,500	

CHURCHES.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Per cent. in Population.	Remarks.
1860 -	2	10 and 1 chapel	7,480	8,120	29 1/00	
1861 - -	3	9 and 2 ,,	8,338	7,475	27 4/00	
1862 -	3	9 and 2 ,,	7,888	7,625	27 4/00	

SCHOOLS.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Total No. of Scholars.	Per cent. Population.	Remarks.
1860 -	11	7	1,470	5 1/00	All those classed under "Church of England" are the Mico Schools. There are no "Church of England" Schools.
1861 - -	11	8	1,465	5 8/00	
1862 -	11	7	1,516	5 1/00	

VALUE in STERLING.

Year.	IMPORTS.				EXPORTS.			
	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1860	33,795 2 10	38,290 11 2	25,814 7 0	97,900 1 0	93,642 0 0	6,673 9 8	5,631 14 8	105,947 4 4
1861	40,070 16 11	35,607 10 8	34,387 12 1	110,065 19 8	87,233 10 0	6,691 10 8	2,396 7 6	96,321 8 2
1862	32,089 6 4	31,006 0 8	30,511 8 1	93,606 15 1	79,088 8 9	6,279 3 9	2,624 2 6	87,991 15 0

SHIPPING.

Year.	INWARDS.				OUTWARDS.			
	From Great Britaiu.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
1860 - -	2,323	6,502	3,538	12,363	4,075	6,136	2,638	12,849
1861 -	3,883	5,827	2,639	12,349	4,495	4,901	3,038	12,434
1862 - -	3,018	4,694	3,325	11,037	4,562	4,202	2,077	10,841

RETURN of CRIMINAL and other PRISONERS.

Year.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Debtors.
1860 - -	533	53	9	—	595	122	—	5
1861 -	340	59	2	—	401	—	194	3
1862 - -	439	116	5	1	561	160	—	—

TABLE of certain Articles of Importation in the Years 1860, 1861, and 1862.

ARTICLES.	1860.	1861.	1862.
Bread - - - - -	187 packages.	10,112 lbs.	7,702 lbs.
Butter - - - - -	2,032 „	63,021 „	55,722 „
Cheese - - - - -	11,275 lbs.	8,543 „	13,976 „
Corn and grain - - - -	1,342 packages.	2,863 bushels.	3,548 bushels.
Corn meal - - - -	348 brls.	84 brls.	1,346 brls.
Fish, salted and pickled - - -	9,590 quintals.	10,088 quintals.	11,274 quintals.
Flour, wheat - - - -	8,367 brls.	5,536 brls.	8,864 brls.
Lard - - - -	1,393 packages.	34,770 lbs.	38,561 lbs.
Meat, salted - - - - -	131,739 lbs.	144,135 „	170,121 „
Oil - - - - - -	680 packages.	6,544 gallons.	10,256 gallons.
Rice - - - - -	508,910 lbs.	449,938 lbs.	771,502 lbs.
Salt - - - - -	5,772 bushels.	3,027 bushels.	2,690 bushels.
Tobacco, manufactured - - -	3,176 lbs.	1,984 „	1,848 lbs.
„ unmanufactured - - -	54,755 „	76,351 „	45,519 „
Vermicelli - - - -	295 packages.	4,459 „	3,365 „
Vinegar - - - - -	49 „	1,709 gallons.	2,003 gallons.
Wines - - - - -	532 „	9,445 „	5,925 „
Live stock - - - -	294 head.	393 head.	168 head.
British manufactured goods - -	£36,941	£37,467	£32,439
Value of Imports - - -	£97,900	£100,063	£93,606

STATEMENT of Staple Exports for the Years 1860, 1861, and 1862.

Year.	Sugar.	Molasses.	Rum.	Firewood.	Logwood.	Cocoa.
	Lbs.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Cords.	Tons.	Lbs.
1860	7,958,165	122,400	29,221	224	135	212,482
1861	9,594,000	115,680	11,040	219	96	238,213
1862	8,762,415	104,800	8,275	177	130	191,392

ANTIGUA.

No. 12.

ANTIGUA.

No. 12.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 117.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
September 1, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the first copy of the Blue Book of this colony for the year ended the 31st of December 1862, with the explanatory remarks of the Colonial Secretary thereon.

2. Mr. Baynes was not in Antigua during any portion of the past year, and therefore he is unable to review the contents of these statistical returns with the scrutiny that might be considered desirable, but I am indebted to the Colonial Secretary for its preparation in a comparatively short period since he assumed office, and when I am aware his time and attention were fully occupied with other duties.

3. Not having administered the government during any portion of the past year, I am not in a position to add any observations to those of the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 12.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Antigua,
August 29, 1863.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book Returns of this colony for the year 1862. On my assuming the duties of this department in May last, I found that the Blue Book for the preceding year had not been commenced. This delay was occasioned, as I was informed, by a heavy pressure of work in the office, and by the very inadequate clerical assistance afforded to the Secretary; the preparation of the Blue Book therefore devolved upon me.

2. These returns refer to a period antecedent to my arrival in this colony, and I am, in consequence, not in a position to furnish your Excellency with any detailed explanation of the several tables comprising this document. I however submit such observations as have occurred to me on some of the most important heads.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The total revenue, as shown by the returns prepared by the Treasurer, amounted to 41,066*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* In this sum is included a public loan of 1,583*l.* 19*s.*, contracted during the year, for the erection of the St. John's Market. The amount raised by taxation during the year was 39,482*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, which, against 37,874*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* levied in the previous year, shows an increase of 1,608*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* In the month of July last the import duties were increased by the imposition of an additional rate of thirty per cent. on all existing specific duties, and by raising the ad valorem duty from 6 to 12½ per cent. A tax upon carriages, horses, and upon the rental of houses in the towns, was imposed at the same time. A large portion of this latter tax was, however, uncollected at the time of making the Treasury Returns for the Blue Book.

4. The following return exhibits the financial position of the colony at the end of 1862.

REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of ANTIGUA for the Year 1862:—

Revenue.

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs Duties, viz.:—						
Tariff - - - - - -	28,098	0	0			
Tonnage, including rate for Holberton Hospital -	2,203	17	5			
Powder duty - - - - -	191	18	6			
Militia export duty - - -	2,495	2	0			
				32,988	17	11

	£	s.	d.
Rum duty	1,422	16	10
Carriage tax	510	8	0
Horse tax	316	10	0
Dog tax	71	12	0
House tax	18	2	8
Post Office revenue	71	0	8
Fees of office	639	13	0
Fines, penalties, and forfeitures	885	14	10
Savings bank	54	3	4
Police reward fund	20	12	9
Record tax	1,168	4	6
	39,482	17	6
Loan for erection of market	1,583	19	0
	41,066	16	6
Excess of revenue	2,141	11	11

Taxes outstanding at close of year, viz.:—	£	s.	d.			
Parochial tax	1,104	2	5½			
Record tax	110	19	6			
House tax	654	14	0			
Horse and carriage tax	131	14	0			
				2,001	9	11½
Surplus available for service of 1863				4,143	1	10½

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.			
Civil, Judicial, and Ecclesiastical establishments				9,633	17	7
Police				5,768	9	10
Gaol				1,788	16	1
Charitable and other institutions, viz.:—	£	s.	d.			
General poor-house	2,780	0	0			
Lunatic Asylum	1,035	16	2			
Holberton Hospital	1,450	0	0			
Medical relief	438	11	0			
Vaccination	53	17	0			
Schools	1,000	0	0			
				6,758	7	2
Highways				2,646	13	4
Signal stations, forts, and militia				3,557	1	8
Fire brigade				422	12	6
Public market				1,651	14	8
Pensions				686	19	8
Interest and instalment of loan				2,151	12	8
Savings bank				1,266	10	0
Miscellaneous expenses				2,592	9	5
				38,925	4	7
Excess of revenue				2,141	11	11
				41,066	16	6

Immigration Fund.

Amount in hand on 31st December, 1862, viz.:—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Treasury debentures	1,320	0	0			
Export and excise duty	4,230	19	3			
				5,550	19	3

5. *Militia and Military Defences.*

The militia of Antigua consists of three corps—the yeomanry cavalry, the artillery, and the infantry, making a total force of 346 men, 83 of whom form the cavalary. The

ANTIGUA.

militia is called out for drill twice in each month. The several corps have now acquired a creditable state of discipline and efficiency.

The entire cost incurred by the colony on account of its military defences is as follows, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Signal stations and forts - -	862	16	7
Artillery and infantry - -	352	3	7
Cavalry - - -	2,342	1	6
	£3,557	1	8

The expense of the cavalry corps is defrayed by a special tax upon the exportation of sugar, rum, and molasses. Every estate providing a trooper, properly mounted, armed, and accoutred, is entitled to receive from the Treasury an annual sum of 25*l.* in the form of drawback upon the export duty.

Public Works.

7. The Saint John's Market, commenced in October 1861, was opened to the public in November 1862. The amount expended to the end of the year in the erection of this useful building was 2,217*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*; a further sum of about 2,000*l.* will be required for its completion.

Legislation.

8. Seventeen laws were enacted during the year. The following are among the most important:—

An Act to establish a public market.

An Act to encourage and promote the immigration of agricultural labourers, and for the purpose of such immigration, to impose certain duties upon the exportation of sugar.

An Act to raise a fund for the payment of the cost of the introduction of agricultural labourers.

An Act relating to certain contracts heretofore entered into, by or on behalf of certain agricultural labourers.

An Act to enforce the practice of vaccination.

The prepayment of Postage Act.

An Act for enforcing Church Discipline.

An Act to prevent the spread of small-pox.

Population, Births, and Deaths.

9. For information under these heads, I beg to refer to the accompanying report prepared by Mr. Sheriff, the late Acting Registrar-General.

Imports, Exports, and Shipping.

10. The value of imports for 1862 was only 186,353*l.* against 208,677*l.* in 1861, and 225,792*l.* in 1860. This gradual decrease arises in great measure from the limited importation of cotton goods, and from the entire cessation of trade with the Southern States since the commencement of the present American difficulty. The following table shows the value of imports and exports for the last six years:—

Years.	Imports.				Exports.
	Great Britain.	United States.	Elsewhere.	Total.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1857 -	119,762	55,983	58,313	234,058	335,269
1858 -	114,632	106,586	45,146	266,364	325,841
1859 -	88,089	62,618	53,291	203,998	289,064
1860 -	96,357	79,207	50,227	225,791	254,002
1861 -	107,499	53,532	47,645	208,677	237,123
1862 -	73,871	40,235	72,247	186,353	226,327

The quantity of sugar shipped during the same period is as follows :—

Years.	Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.	Equal to whole Hogsheads.
1857 -	12,446	1,356	6,362	14,148
1858 -	14,534	1,607	6,607	16,430
1859 -	12,705	1,459	4,434	14,322
1860 -	11,091	1,300	4,630	12,535
1861 -	10,241	1,448	4,894	11,818
1862 -	13,606	1,767	8,022	15,774

Shipping.

Years.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1857 -	749	37,064	750	37,303
1858 -	666	42,534	676	42,384
1859 -	566	33,062	580	34,728
1860 -	585	35,430	591	35,313
1861 -	529	32,300	535	31,961
1862 -	540	31,710	540	29,705

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Colonel Hill, C.B., (Signed) EDWIN BAYNES,
Governor-in-Chief, Colonial Secretary.
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure.

REPORT of the late Acting Registrar General of Births and Deaths for the Year 1862.

To His Excellency Col. STEPHEN J. HILL, C.B., &c., &c.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the Abstract of Births and Deaths for the year 1862. The decrease in the number of births and the increase in the number of deaths are very striking features in the returns. The decrease of births is 256. The increase of deaths is 335, as compared with the year 1861.

On reference to the tables of preceding years, I find that in the year 1857, the births recorded were 1,515, while those of 1858 were 1,273, a decrease for the year of 242. I can trace no cause whatever for the remarkable peculiarity of those years in respect to the apparent deficiency of births.

Referring to the possibility of omissions to record births and deaths, I have endeavoured to test the accuracy of the returns to the Registrar by returns of baptisms and burials throughout the colony. For these I am indebted to the courtesy of the Lord Bishop, of Bishop Westbury, and of the Reverend James T. Hartwell, and by them I find that the baptisms were as follows :—

	1861.	1862.
Church of England - - -	790	676
Moravians - - - -	225	198
Wesleyans - - -	80	73
Total - - -	1095	947

Shewing a deficiency for the year 1862 of 148 baptisms. The comparatively small number of baptisms of Moravians is explained by the fact that legitimate children only are baptized by that church. The deficiency of births is to a certain extent thus confirmed by the evidence of the baptismal returns. The increase in the number of deaths, however much to be lamented, is explained by the prevalence of measles and of whooping-cough, which occasioned great mortality among the infant and juvenile classes, and in the latter part of the year, of small-pox, which, though of a comparatively mild type, developed itself in some cases with great severity, and consequent loss of life.

If the testimony afforded by the tables of 1862, viz. a deficiency of 666 in an aggregate population of 36,412, were to be taken as evidence of the state of facts ordinarily existing, it would be clear that in the absence of epidemic and contagious diseases there was something both physically and morally wrong in the constitution of the colony, and that there was ground for just apprehension that the population was in a course of rapid extinction. Happily, however, the year 1862 was certainly an exceptional year. The registration of births and deaths commenced in 1857, and by the returns for

ANTIGUA.

five years from 1857 to 1861 inclusive, the births were 6,760, the deaths 6,645, showing in place of the depopulating decrease of 666, an increase of 115; while by the returns of baptisms and burials for the same period, the baptisms were 5,594, and the burials 5,375, showing an increase of 219. Again, by the census of 1856, the population was 35,408, and by that of 1861 it was 36,412, showing an increase of 1,004, from which, deducting 235, the number of persons engaged in shipping, a class not included in the census of 1856, we have an apparent increase of 769.

But although it does not therefore appear that the population is decreasing, it is very disturbing to find that it is not increasing in the proportion in which it unquestionably ought to increase in a country where, to use the words of Governor Eyre, "the climate and other conditions propitious to life are so favourable;" and of Governor Hamilton, "where the climate is favourable and the wants of life comparatively few."

This stationary condition may be owing to a deficiency of births, or, if their be the fair ordinary number of births, to an undue proportion of still-born, or of infantile deaths, or to a mortality generally, without respect to particular classification, in excess of births, or to one or more of these various causes.

The African race is naturally prolific, and it is important to remember that the distribution of the sexes by the census was in favour of females, the numbers being as follows:—Males 16,742, females 19,670. The registration tables for the five years from 1857 to 1861 inclusive, setting aside the year 1862 as an exceptional year, show the number of births to have been in the aggregate 6,760, in a population which may be taken at the medium number of 36,000.

This establishes for the five years a rate of 18·78 or 3·75 per cent. per annum, which contrasts favourably with that of England, which for the year 1859 was 3·504, for the year 1860 was 3·437, both being above the average for ten years, which was 3·417; but it is not so satisfactory a result as might have been expected considering the combined advantages of climate and of the facilities of life, of the natural fecundity of the African race, and of the preponderance of females over males. The birth rate of 1862, taking the population at 36,500, was 2·93. Of the aggregate number of births for five years, viz. 6,760, 749 were still-born, being at the rate of 11·8 per cent., or one in every nine, while in Europe the mean proportion of still-born children is stated to be one in every 22 births. In the year 1862, however, of 1,072 births, 114 only are returned still-born, as opposed to 161 for the year 1861, a great improvement if the returns can be relied upon.

Of the aggregate number of births for the six years, viz., 7,832,—3,647 were legitimate, and 4,185 illegitimate, the latter being not only equal to but in excess of the former by 538, or nearly seven per cent., the proportions being of legitimate 46·57, and of illegitimate 53·43 per cent.

In England, in 1860, from a population of 19,902,918, there were 684,048 births; of this number 640,355 children were born in wedlock, and 43,693 were illegitimate, the former being of the aggregate births 93·61, and the latter 6·39 per cent.

The deaths of all ages for five years were 6,645, but this included the number of still-born for the same period, which should not be included with those persons that have lived and breathed. Deducting this number, 749, we have 5,896, or an annual average of 1,179, which, in respect to a mean population of 36,000, establishes the general death rate of 3·27 per cent. In England it is 2·124.

The deaths of children of one year and under, for five years, were 2,157, and, excluding the still-born, 1,408, or an annual average of 281, which, in respect to 1,179, the deaths of all ages establishes a per centage of 23·83, as opposed to the rate in England, which is about 22 per cent., and in respect to 1,202, the average births, excluding the still-born, would show that of every 100 children born, 23·37 die within the year, as opposed to 15 in England.*

Upon considering the foregoing statements, attention is forcibly attracted to the number of still-born as compared with living births, and the number of illegitimate as compared with legitimate, contrasting so strongly with similar returns in the mother country, and constituting as they do dark blots in the registration annals of the colony. It has been suggested with reference to the former that the engagement of women in laborious agricultural operations, and sometimes to a late period of pregnancy, may induce both premature and still-born births; the practice, however, is not confined to Antigua, but prevails throughout the West Indies, and without the baneful consequences ascribed to it in this island.

I am rather disposed to consider that the evil is partly owing to its associate evil, the degrading standard of moral habits evinced by the unprecedented prevalence of illegitimacy, and partly to the absence of skilled attendance in the hour of travail. Where the marriage tie prevails in its strength and purity, the wife, in the anxious period of pregnancy, is the subject of more than ordinary solicitude, and in confinement receives the necessary professional assistance, while the infant, welcomed with parental affection, is treated with every care and attention. But in the case of the unmarried female, living comparatively without restraint, pregnancy is the advent of confusion, of increased expense, and personal inconvenience.

Without any certain claim for particular sympathy, deprived of the power of earning her ordinary rate of wages at the very time she requires extra means, the natural feelings of the mother are brought into conflict with the difficulties of her position, and it is to be feared (and such is the impression of professional men) that the temptation to relief but too frequently leads to the sacrifice directly, or indirectly, of the infant, and hence one contributing cause of the undue number of still-born.

The want of medical men in the country districts and remote villages, and the consequent apprehension of the loss of life, more particularly among infants, and the aged and infirm, led to the passing of the Act to provide gratuitous medical attendance for those classes of the labouring population, the

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* Dr. Nicholson, in his valuable report to Governor Hamilton, estimates the deaths of infants at a higher rate, but his calculation included the still-born. By a return of burials generally, and of infants of one year and under, in the Church of England, for five years, 1857 to 1861 inclusive, the former were 3,584, the latter 696, giving a per-centage of 19·41, as opposed to 22 per cent. in England. The baptisms were 4,138, showing, with 696 burials, 16·82, as opposed to 15 per cent. in England.

These tables would show that the mortality which prevents the natural increase of the population is not, as generally supposed, to be traced to any undue infant mortality.

appointment of district medical officers, and the establishment of a fixed scale of charges for attendance. But notwithstanding the facilities thus afforded, and the reduced charge of sixteen shillings for midwifery cases, there is reason to believe that in the majority of instances both mother and infant are denied the benefit of professional attendance, and are left to the handling of the rudest and most ignorant women, who for a small compensation undertake and are permitted to perform the responsible office of midwife with perfect immunity as to consequences.

It is obvious that under such treatment, even with honesty of purpose, the chances are greatly against both mother and child; and when it is considered, that where the infant, if born alive, is regarded as an obnoxious incumbrance, the agency of such a class would be readily available, we may in some degree account for the condemning number of still-born, and the deaths of infants in the earliest stage of life.

The withdrawal of a large proportion of the population formerly resident on estates to establish themselves in the city, and in villages in remote parts of the country, has led to a mischievous overcrowding of dwellings, sometimes situate in unfavourable localities, insufficiently drained, and giving rise to intermittent fever. In many cases, secluded from public observation, the inhabitants of these villages in place of progressing have retrograded in manners, and hence a state of demoralization as injurious to society as compromising to the character of the island. There are churches and chapels, Church of England, Moravian, Wesleyan, Catholic, and Presbyterian, and there are able and zealous ministers of Religion. Schools are established in every direction. Gratuitous medical attendance is provided for the old and the young; and yet, contrary to all experience, with every advantage of climate, of the facilities of life, of education based upon religious teaching, immorality is in the ascendant, and the population is at best but stationary. These evils are, I fear, beyond the pale of legislation. A close supervision, however, on the part of the ministers of Religion and their assistants, would tend to a house-to-house acquaintance with the people and a personal knowledge of their mode of life, and afford opportunity of combating with much that is wrong, morally and socially, in their every day habits. Many of their dwellings do not afford sufficient accommodation for the number of inmates, hence a very imperfect separation is maintained between the sexes, leading to violations of the decencies of domestic life. This is an evil which is especially felt in cases of confinement, and it would be a great advantage, therefore, if one or more lying-in houses could be provided, and competent midwives obtained from the Lying-in Hospital in Dublin to superintend them, where for the smallest possible charge the necessary accommodation might be afforded to patients. One such establishment in every parish would be productive of much positive good, and simultaneously suppressive of much positive evil. The population of St. Christopher was, by the census of 1855, 20,741, and by that of 1861, to which I have not access, I am informed that it had increased at the rate of nearly 500 per annum.

The population of Barbados in 1851 was 135,939; of these 18,000 fell victims to the cholera in 1854, and yet the population had increased in 1861 to 152,727, at the rate of nearly 3,500 per annum.

If Antigua progressed at the same rate, and there is no assignable cause why she should not, her natural increase of population would in course of time furnish an immigration of the best quality, and at the cheapest rate.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JAMES W. SHERIFF,
Late Acting Registrar.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B. to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 118.) Leeward Islands, Antigua,
MY LORD DUKE, September 2, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit Mr. Robinson's Report with the Blue Book of the Island of Montserrat for the year ended the 31st December 1862.

Pres. Robinson to Gov. Hill, No. 106, July 25, 1863.

2. Not having been in the Administration of the Government during any portion of the past year, I am unable to add any remarks to those of the President, but I may venture to express a confident opinion that under Mr. Robinson's rule the condition of Montserrat, politically and socially, is improving; and I look forward to a satisfactory result under his Presidentship of that island.

I have, &c.
His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. (Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL.
&c. &c. &c. Governor.

MONTSERRAT.

Enclosure in No. 13.

(No. 106.)

SIR, Montserrat, July 25, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of Montserrat for the year 1862.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The following return affords evidence of a gradual improvement in the finances of the colony during the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess of Revenue over Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Revenue.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1858 -	3,605 13 1¾	2,848 1 2¾	757 11 11	—
1859 -	3,250 10 5¼	3,260 14 0½	—	10 3 7¼
1860 -	3,332 17 2	3,242 16 5½	90 0 8½	—
1861 -	4,494 6 6¼	4,181 7 0	312 19 6¼	—
1862 -	4,489 17 10½	4,466 18 1¾	22 19 8¾	—

It will be observed that the revenue of 1862 (4,489*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*) exceeded the expenditure (4,466*l.* 18*s.* 1¾*d.*) by 22*l.* 19*s.* 8¾*d.*

3. The receipts under the Tariff Act exhibit an increase over those of 1861 of 234*l.* 12*s.* 0¼*d.*, or at the rate of 15 per cent.; but, on the other hand, a falling off in the sugar crop and a reduction of the duties on exports, caused a decrease of 331*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* in the amount of revenue collected under this head.

The gross increase in the revenue is put down at 370*l.* 3*s.* 11½*d.*, the gross decrease at 374*l.* 12*s.* 7¼*d.*

4. The total revenue of 1862 (4,489*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*) fell short of that of 1861 (4,494*l.* 6*s.* 6¼*d.*) by 4*l.* 8*s.* 7¾*d.*

5. The expenditure of the past year was 4,466*l.* 18*s.* 1¾*d.*, or 258*l.* 11*s.* 1¾*d.* in excess of that of the preceding.

6. I annex a statement showing in detail, and under separate heads, the increase or decrease, as the case may be, in the expenditure of 1862 as compared with that of 1861. The total increase appears to have amounted to 621*l.* 0*s.* 11½*d.*, against a total decrease of 335*l.* 9*s.* 9¾*d.*

—	Expenditure, 1861.	Expenditure, 1862.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Civil establishment - - -	763 3 0	760 10 10	—	2 12 2
Judicial establishment - -	531 5 0	531 5 0	—	—
Ecclesiastical establishment - -	263 16 5	337 15 6	73 19 1	—
Registration of births, deaths, and marriages - - -	—	69 13 3	69 13 3	—
Poor establishment - - -	574 9 5	667 10 0	93 0 7	—
Loan account with Government -	694 3 6½	715 7 1	21 3 6½	—
Gaol expenses - - -	109 18 3½	*a*160 8 5½	50 10 2	—
Public printing - - -	66 0 0	48 10 10	—	17 9 2
Repairs of roads - - -	45 16 2½	78 3 0	32 6 9½	—
Quarantine expenses - -	45 12 5½	46 0 0	0 7 6½	—
Repairs of public buildings - -	484 5 0	200 0 0	—	284 5 0
Miscellaneous expenses - -	602 17 8	*b*571 14 2¼	—	31 3 5¾
Public grants - - -	—	280 0 0	280 0 0	—
Total -	4,181 7 0	4,466 18 1¾	621 0 11½	335 9 9¾

(*a* and *b*.) In the volume now before me, these items are entered at 140*l.* 8*s.* 5½*d.* and 531*l.* 14*s.* 2¼*d.*; in the above return, *a* appears in excess of the former by 20*l.*, and *b* of the latter by 30*l.*, being respectively the amounts at which the expenses for the month of December, not audited at the time of the compilation of the Blue Book, were estimated by the Treasurer.

7. I proceed to offer explanatory observations with reference to such items of the foregoing return as are brought into prominence by their weight.

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

The increase under this head is owing to the appointment in July 1861 of a rector to the parish of St. Peter, which district had previously been left for many years without a

minister. The rector receives an annual salary from the local treasury of 130*l.*, and 100*l.* from funds at the disposal of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

The Act making compulsory the registration of births, deaths, and marriages, came into operation on the 12th February, and the disbursements attendant upon its working appear now for the first time as a charge upon the revenue.

Poor Establishment.

The expenses of the "Chateau," an establishment consisting of a poor-house, lunatic asylum, and hospital, of which the average number of inmates is 54, amounted during the past year to 667*l.* 10*s.*, or about one-sixth part of our entire expenditure. Admitting that the liberal manner in which this institution is supported, reflects the greatest credit on the Legislature, it appears to me that under a more economical system of internal management, a considerable saving might be effected, without depriving the establishment of its usefulness, or the poor and the sick of any of those comforts and advantages to which they have hitherto been accustomed.

Gaol Expenses.

The addition of 50*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* to the last annual expenditure under this head, is attributable more to the high price of provisions than to an increase in the number of persons confined in the gaol.

Miscellaneous Expenses.

This item includes a sum of 280*l.* voted by the Assembly for the purpose of repairing and furnishing the premises leased as a residence for the officer administering the Government.

Public Grants.

A sum of 180*l.* was granted in November to the Rector of Saint Anthony's, and one of 100*l.* to the Public Medical Attendant, who, on tendering his resignation to my predecessor, had been induced to continue in the discharge of his duties by the promise of an increase to his salary.

These sums (180*l.* and 100*l.*) and the amount expended in repairing and furnishing the Government House (280*l.*), will not require to be provided for in the estimates of future disbursements.

8. I am strenuously endeavouring to reduce such items of the expenditure as appear to me to be excessive or unnecessary. The Committee of Public Works, lately constituted by the Legislature at my suggestion, and whose duty it is to audit the accounts of the colony and superintend the outlay of public money, is of considerable assistance to me in this respect.

Public Works.

9. Having already referred, when speaking of the expenditure of 1862, to the enlargement of the premises leased as a residence for the officer administering the Government, I have here only to report the restoration of the Chapel of Ease in the town of Plymouth at a cost of 254*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*, and that the public roads throughout the island have been kept in comparatively good order at an expense to the colony of 78*l.* 3*s.*

Legislation.

10. Of the legislative measures passed during the year 1862, it is only necessary that I should specially refer to that entitled,—

An Act to amend the constitution of the Island of Montserrat, and to establish a registry of voters for the election of the elective members of the Legislative Assembly.

This enactment was framed for the purpose of empowering the officer administering the Government to preside when necessary at the meetings of the Legislative Assembly; of putting a stop, by an amendment of the Franchise Act, to the creation of fictitious votes which were given to parties having no real interest in the land, whereby the elections for almost every parish in the island were brought under the control of two or three landholders, by whom the Executive Government was rendered powerless; and of providing for the general registration of votes at elections.

MONTSERRAT.

11. Although this Act did not come into operation until the commencement of the present year, and a review of its working will properly belong to the Report on the Blue Book of 1863, I may be here permitted to observe that under the present system of registration, an election, heretofore a scene of riotous excitement, and the parent of political strife, is now invariably conducted in a creditable and orderly manner.

12. The tendency to an improvident appropriation of public money, not unfrequently accompanied by a disinclination to furnish the supplies necessary for carrying on the government, has found a remedy in the 25th section of this Act, where it is provided that "no vote of money shall be proposed in the Assembly without the assent of the "governor."

13. The measure realizes, in almost every respect, the expectations formed of it, and detailed in the correspondence upon this subject with your Excellency's predecessor in the administration of the general government.

14. But while I acknowledge that during the last two or three years great improvements have been made in the form of government, and that our present single Chamber, over which the Administrator of the Government presides, is infinitely preferable to the cumbrous machinery of former days, I am constrained to admit we have not yet arrived at that best suited to a community where the already too scanty material is disorganized by irreconcilable individual differences and virulent party feeling.

I need not at present, however, dwell upon this subject, for I am aware that no further change can be effected until the local Legislature shall be brought to see that the real interests of all classes would benefit by the concentration, into unbiassed and independent hands, of those functions and responsibilities which are now spread over so wide a space.

Education.

15. The schools in connection with the different denominations continue to be supported in a creditable manner, considering that they receive no assistance whatsoever from the island Treasury. I have not failed to urge upon the Assembly the necessity of making some provision for their maintenance. That it is incumbent upon the Legislature to do so is not denied, and I have no fear but that I shall shortly succeed in obtaining an annual grant in aid of institutions which it is the first duty of every civilized community to foster and encourage.

Imports and Exports.—Agriculture.

16. It is to be regretted that under this head the picture is not as pleasing as that of last year.

I subjoin a return showing the annual value of the imports and exports from 1858 to 1862; and also a comparative statement of the quantity of sugar exported during the same period:—

Value of Imports and Exports from 1858 to 1862.

	Imports. £	s.	d.		Exports. £	s.	d.
1858	17,844	7	6½	1858	16,829	17	9
1859	19,718	7	2	1859	16,746	2	6
1860	20,060	4	8	1860	17,043	7	0
1861	24,719	16	10	1861	21,048	8	0
1862	22,386	14	9	1862	14,882	9	2

Comparative statement of quantity of Sugar exported from 1858 to 1862.

	Hogsheads.
1858	779
1859	873
1860	807
1861	1,195
1862	904

17. In consequence of the unfavourable weather against which the planter had to contend, the crop of 1862 fell short of that of the preceding year by 291 hogsheads; and this, although a greater extent of cane land was then under cultivation than during the previous twelve months.

18. To the decrease in the sugar crop is chiefly attributable the diminution in the value of last year's exports as contrasted with those of 1861.

19. I have reason to fear that owing to a continuance of unseasonable weather, and in spite of unusually extensive preparations, the crop of the current year will not equal even that of 1862.

20. These circumstances, and the low price of our staple product in the home market, combine to make the present season one of peculiar trial to the planters, who, from the fictitious value at which properties are rated on the tax roll, are, in some instances, compelled to bear a larger portion of the public burden than can reasonably be expected, or is just.

21. On opening the session of the Legislature in February last, I called the attention of the Assembly, in the following words, to the anomalous condition of the schedules of the Tax Act:—

"The greater number of the properties which appear on this tax roll were valued "as far back as the year 1836, and have not since that date been re-adjusted. It is "manifestly unfair that an estate worth now only 1,000*l.*, should be taxed as though "its real value were 3,000*l.*, because 27 years ago it may have been worth the latter "amount. Of course, when decreasing the valuation of some of the properties here "taxed, and causing the burden to fall more equitably on all classes, care must be "taken to increase the rate of assessment simultaneously, and in the same ratio." But although their interest is largely represented in the House, and the remedy within reach, the proprietors have not yet been induced to stretch out their hands in order to obtain relief from the evils of which they so loudly complain.

Gaol and Prisoners.

22. The report of the Inspector of Prisons, so far as it goes, is satisfactory.

23. The Assembly has hitherto failed to make provision for the enlargement of the gaol, a ground plan of which is attached to the returns, although the subject has frequently been brought to the notice of that body by the officer administering the Government.

Speaking upon this subject, the Colonial Secretary justly remarks:—

"It is very desirable that the prison should be enlarged, with a view to more complete "classification, particularly in the separation of the juvenile from the adult prisoners, "all of whom are at present confined together."

Conclusion.

24. As a general rule, the climate of the island is favourable to health. Good order and a willing obedience to the laws are characteristics of the population.

In these respects, I am thankful to say the year 1862 has not been exceptional.

25. In penning the foregoing remarks, which are in part explanatory of matters not immediately deducible from the accompanying statistical returns, I have endeavoured to represent faithfully to your Excellency the position of the colony at the close of the past year.

If the retrospect is not indicative of any marked alteration or improvement, it does not exhibit, on the whole, a discouraging present condition, or create anxiety with regard to the future.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON,

President.

His Excellency Governor Hill, C.B.,
&c., &c., &c.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

No. 14.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

No. 14.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to His Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 103.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
September 4, 1863.

Mr. King to Governor Hill, No. 82, Sept. 1, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace a Despatch addressed to me by the Officer administering the Government of St. Kitts, forwarding the Blue Book of that Colony for the year 1862, with his report thereon.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

Enclosure in No. 14.

(No. 82.)

Government House, September 1, 1863.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency, for transmission to his Grace the Secretary of State, the Blue Book for 1862, with a short report thereon.

Sub-Enc.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. HAMPDEN KING,
Administrator of the Government.

His Excellency Governor Hill, C.B.,
&c., &c., &c.

Sub-Enclosure.

REPORT to accompany the Blue Book of St. Christopher for 1862.

SIR,

THE temporary nature of my connection with the Government of this island, and my brief experience of the working of its institutions, will, I trust, be accepted as an excuse for the following imperfect attempt at a Report to accompany the Blue Book for 1862.

Duties, Taxes, Fees.

There have been no changes during the past year in the tariff of duties, or in the schedules of fees. The only new tax is that created by the 52d clause of the Militia Act, No. 187, which imposes an export duty of 4*s.* 2*d.* a hogshead on sugar, for the purpose of raising a fund to remunerate estates furnishing troopers and horses for the militia cavalry. This tax came into operation in August, and produced 206*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* last year; it is calculated to bring in an annual revenue of from 1,800*l.* to 1,900*l.*

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the island is in a very flourishing condition. It exceeded that of the previous year by more than 2,000*l.* Of this excess, in round numbers, 700*l.* was due to larger imports, 560*l.* to increase of sugar crop, nearly 400*l.* to the greater number of rum licences issued, 54*l.* to fees and fines, 46*l.* to the post office, and 100*l.* to fees of pupils at the grammar school. The remainder, 206*l.*, was supplied by the new (cavalry) export tax.

The expenditure was rather less on the whole than that of 1861, though in some items it was greater.

The services on which an increased outlay occurred were, protective forces and forts, nearly 900*l.*; repairs of roads and bridges about 200*l.*, rendered necessary by the heavy rains of October 1861; ecclesiastical establishment 100*l.*, repairs to the Cunningham Hospital 116*l.*, expenses of the grammar school 326*l.*, and 678*l.* paid over to the mayor and council of Bapeterre, under the 62d clause of the Act No. 175, establishing the

corporation, making with other items not specified 2,600*l.*, against which must be set a saving of 1,300*l.* in public works and repairs, and 1,360*l.* in printing and miscellaneous services.

The revenue and expenditure for the last ten years were as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1853	14,206	12,632
1854	14,644	19,994
1855	15,172	12,782
1856	16,194	16,033
1857	19,399	18,041
1858	23,356	17,013
1859	17,844	18,105
1860	20,691	21,723
1861	20,283	21,433
1862	22,292	21,371

At the commencement of 1863 the Treasurer's account showed a balance in favour of the public of 5,168*l.*, and at the close of last year there was in hand a sum of 5,421*l.* available for the service of 1863.

Military.

The whole system of the protective forces of the island was remodelled last year by an Act dated the 15th August.

The militia now consists of the Windward and Leeward troops of cavalry, numbering respectively 48 and 32 officers and men, and an artillery corps of 70 non-commissioned officers and privates, besides officers. This corps is also drilled to serve as infantry.

The arms of the cavalry are a rifled carbine and a sabre. Fifty of the artillery are supplied with long Enfield rifles, and the remaining 20 with rifled muskets, pattern of 1851. Their guns are two brass 3-pounders.

* * * * *

The cavalry were drilled by their adjutant, who was paid for his services, and the artillery by their own officers up to December last, when a sergeant of the Royal Horse Artillery was sent out as drill instructor to both arms. They have acquired some proficiency, especially the cavalry, and the officers generally understand their work.

The Artillery Corps has suffered in efficiency from an arbitrary regulation made at the time of its enrolment, by which persons who had served in the former militia escaped being pricked.

Many of the recruits available for service are of an inferior stamp to those who were thus exempted, and the number of them is insufficient to keep the corps up to its full strength.

The forts recommended by Lieut.-Colonel Fanshawe, R.E., in 1861, and commenced in that year, were completed in 1862; but their value in protecting the town and the trade of the island from predatory invasion would be much greater if they were mounted with heavier ordnance.

Public Works.

The public works undertaken last year were chiefly confined to repairs comprising those of Government House, the court-house, and of some of the churches. The mortuary chapel at Springfield cemetery, commenced in 1861, was finished.

Legislation.

During 1862 ten Acts were passed by the Legislature, of which two were to continue Acts formerly passed. Of the remaining eight only three call for any especial notice.

The first of these Acts, which I should mention, is "An Act to remove doubts as to "the legality of Roman Catholic marriages" here. It seems to have been passed in consequence of other Acts of this island having caused doubts to arise concerning the civil rights of parties contracting such marriages here, and it declares among other things that marriages solemnized according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church shall be valid, and that the provisions of the Act No. 63, with certain exceptions, shall apply to such marriages.

This Act has a suspending clause, and it would seem that it has not yet been confirmed.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

A very important Act passed in 1862, is the " Act to consolidate and amend the laws " relating to the militia and other protective forces."

After repealing former enactments, this Act establishes a militia, consisting of two troops of cavalry and a corps of artillery.

The cavalry is composed of troopers, furnished by estates in proportion to their size and return of sugar, no estate being required to send more than two men and horses.

The enrolment of the artillery is for three years, the qualification of those liable to serve being—

1. A freehold in land of five acres, or in house and land of the value of 15*l.* a year. The sons of such freeholders being also qualified for service.
2. Occupancy of ten acres of land, or of a house and land to the annual value of 20*l.*
3. Income or salary, whether absolutely in cash or made up partly of cash and partly of allowances, to the amount of 35*l.*

The uniform and accoutrements of the artillery, and the arms and ammunition of cavalry as well as of artillery, are furnished at the public expense.

I have referred in another part of my report to the drill and proficiency of the militia so established, and it only remains for me to notice a remarkable feature of the new Act, namely, the provision for the payment to the estates of 25*l.* a year, subject to certain deductions, for each trooper and horse furnished in accordance with the law. To raise the amount required for this purpose, a tax is imposed of 4*s.* 2*d.* a hogshead on the export of sugar.

The other Act to which I should direct attention is the " Act to simplify and expedite " the administration of justice."

This is a very elaborate and comprehensive measure, compiled with great care from various sources, such as the Imperial Common Law Procedure Acts of 1852 and 1854, and the Irish Common Law Procedure Act of 1853. Resort has also been had to the laws of New Zealand, to the Danish law as existing in the islands of Santa Cruz and St. Thomas, and to the New York Code of Procedure.

So novel and important an enactment necessarily had a suspending clause, and as it has not yet received Her Majesty's confirmation, it would be premature to speculate on the probable operation of this law.

Education.

The great subject of education has not been overlooked in this island. No new measures were passed during 1862, but the grammar school, established by the Act of January 1861, was opened on the 21st of April last year, under the superintendence of a graduate of Cambridge, considered to be in every way competent to discharge the duties of Principal, as well as those of Inspector of the Schools of the industrial classes, which two offices are combined in one person.

The grammar school did not attract as many pupils as was expected, the greatest number under tuition at any one time being only sixteen. This paucity of pupils at first was not regarded with much disappointment, as it was attributed to the novelty of the institution, which was expected to win the confidence of the community as it became better known. But, unfortunately, before such a result was attained, the Principal resigned, and although the gentleman who was appointed to fill the vacancy temporarily has exerted himself most creditably to keep up the school and advance the pupils, no increase in the numbers has taken place.

A new Principal, carefully selected in England, is expected to take charge in the latter end of this year, and under his auspices, it is to be hoped, the institution will thrive and realize the benefits contemplated by the Legislature.

With reference to the progress of education among the industrial classes, my own opportunities of judging have been too few to enable me to form a very reliable opinion, but the following extract from a report made last year by the late inspector, gives, I believe, a correct idea of the number of schools and average attendance of children :—

" There are at present in connection with the Board of Education thirty-two parochial " schools, of which number sixteen belong to the Established Church, seven are Mora- " vian, and nine are Wesleyan; some few of these are at present temporarily closed from " lack of teachers, but they may all be recognized as in existence.

" The average attendance at these schools amounts to 1,421 ; but as this is calculated " for only 24 schools, it gives an average attendance to each of 59 and a fraction, a pro- " portion which in my opinion evidently shows a wish on the part of the parents to have " their children educated if they can. The number of children on the school roll is " 2,662, or nearly double the number in average attendance."

Trade.—Imports and Exports.

The subjoined table shows the value of the imports and exports of the island for the last ten years:

Year.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.
1853	95,935	131,812
1854	107,965	133,089
1855	96,097	144,641
1856	109,005	137,531
1857	144,581	208,188
1858	161,303	187,900
1859	110,835	136,511
1860	158,033	187,167
1861	136,938	158,224
1862	166,872	175,958

The balance in favour of the island would appear to be very satisfactory, judging from these figures; but I do not think that much reliance is to be placed upon them.

It has been well remarked, in reference to similar figures obtained elsewhere, that "In a port where the bulk of the import duties are ad valorem duties, the importers of "goods are not likely to return them at more than their value; but that while a strong "motive exists for not over valuing the imports, there is a tendency to over estimate the "value of the produce exported."

These observations, perhaps, do not apply with their full force to this island; but to show the results of varying the standard of value, and illustrate at the same time the great fluctuations in the price of the staple article of export, it may be noted, that while the sugar crop of 1857, amounting to 6,511 hogsheads, is returned at the value of 163,917*l.*, that of the last year being 10,700 hogsheads, or 4,189 hogsheads in excess, is valued at only 140,400*l.*

This striking difference is explained by the fact that the official value of sugar in the first-mentioned year is taken at 25*l.* for the hogshead of 1,600 lbs. weight, but in the latter year it is calculated at 13*l.* for the hogshead of 1,800 lbs.

With regard to the crop of 1862, it is very inadequately estimated when the number of hogsheads is stated to be the largest shipped for the last 60 years; the fact being, as I believe, that the hogshead of the present day is a much bigger package than that in use at the commencement of the century,

The following table shows the crops for the last 10 years, and it is interesting as evidence that the improvement since 1860 has been maintained. And in this connexion it may not be out of place to mention that the crop of the current year, 1863, has already reached 10,840 hogsheads exported to this date, to which several hundred hogsheads more will be added by the end of December.

Year.	Hogsheads.	Year.	Hogsheads.
1853	7,061	1858	9,540
1854	8,005	1859	7,734
1855	7,246	1860	9,404
1856	5,883	1861	9,486
1857	6,511	1862	10,700

The gratifying progress disclosed by the above return may be traced to many causes, and primarily to the adoption of a sounder system of cultivation, but I incline to the opinion that much of it is due to immigration.

From 1855 to the beginning of this year the ranks of the agricultural labourers were recruited by 1,119 persons, of whom 732 were Portuguese, and 337 Coolies. And the consequence of this addition has not been merely to place at the disposal of the planter a greater number of hands. The presence of the immigrants has had a moral effect upon the native population, and has induced them to labour more steadily and effectively. Agricultural operations have therefore been carried on more regularly and in season, and "seed time and harvest" have been duly observed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HAMPDEN KING,
Administrator of the Government.

His Excellency Governor Hill, C.B.,
&c. &c &c.

Nevis.

NEVIS.

No. 15.

No. 15.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hill, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.

(No. 10.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
April 6, 1863.

My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to transmit a Despatch received from Sir Arthur Rumbold, forwarding the Blue Book of the island of Nevis for the year ended 31st December 1862.

No. 21, March 21, 1863.

My short service here does not warrant any observations on the President's Report, but I may be permitted to express my satisfaction at the general condition of the island and its future prospects, as reported by Sir Arthur Rumbold.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 15.

(No. 21.)

Queen's House, Nevis,
21st March 1863.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of this colony for 1862.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR RUMBOLD.

His Excellency Colonel Hill, C.B.,
Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure.

Report on the Blue Book for 1862.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The sum of 1,000*l.* was borrowed in 1861, and that amount should therefore be deducted from the receipts of revenue for that year, in order to give a correct comparative statement of revenue.

2. The increase in the revenue of 1862 over that of 1861 amounts to 407*l.* 17*s.* 2½*d.* This increase arises from an augmentation in every branch of the revenue, with one solitary exception. As that exception is in regard to the amount of magisterial fines and penalties, a diminution under that head should be viewed with satisfaction, as indicating a decrease of crime.

3. It is very gratifying to find that by careful and constant supervision, all the branches of the public revenue, notwithstanding the depression to trade occasioned by the American conflict, have maintained not only their average, but have been increased without any resort to extra taxation.

4. Under the head of expenditure, the amount disbursed over and above that expended in 1861, is a trifle in excess, amounting to 76*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* All the public creditors have been paid, and the public works carried on.

Public Debt.

5. The revenue, as now established, being almost entirely of a permanent nature, will be amply sufficient this year to pay off all claims against the public, and complete the pier, which is the only important work that remains unfinished.

6. At the commencement of 1862, the colony had to provide for large demands which had been incurred during my absence on leave, under the temporary administration of Mr. Musgrave. A debt of 286*l.* in excess of the original grant of 250*l.* made for the reception of His Royal Highness Prince Alfred, had to be liquidated; costly books for registrars, and unnecessarily expensive postage stamps, had been ordered, and had to be paid for, making in all the sum of nearly 500*l.*

7. This unprovided-for expenditure has proved a great drawback to the welfare of this little colony; and the financial year closed with prospects of some unavoidable delay in the payment of public salaries at the opening of the present year; but this depression has been of a temporary nature, and the buoyancy of the revenue has already exhibited itself. By the middle of the year ample means will be in hand to pay off all public claims, while all the public works which have pressed hardly on the island resources for a while are now terminated. The Treasurer reports to me,—"Upon the whole the "financial statement of the present year affords without doubt a very pleasing prospect in "reference to the resources available for our public expenditure." In corroboration of this statement, and to show how well founded is the faith in our financial resources, it will not be inapposite to quote a portion of the reply of the Honourable Board of Council to my Address in opening the new Session of the Legislature, on 29th January last: "Although you have not adverted in your opening address to the advantage we derive "from the fact of most of the sources of our revenue being permanently established, we "cannot omit the opportunity of recording our sense of the advantage derived by its "adoption under your auspices and recommendation." Its advantage to Nevis has been most unmistakeably shown. Trade has been steady, for no fears of increased rates of taxation have been engendered, nor have fallacious hopes as to the possible reduction of duties been excited.

Public Works.

8. My term of administration of the Government having expired, I venture to make a *resumé* of the important works which have been carried out during that period.

(1.) The gaol and house of correction, which for commodiousness and arrangement cannot, I believe, be surpassed. The Bishop of Antigua has thus recorded his impressions in visiting it in the Gaol Minute Book, April 8th, 1862:—

"I had the satisfaction of visiting the gaol this day, and could not feel otherwise than "gratified at the judicious and commodious arrangement of the building in all its parts, "and at the signs of order and cleanliness in every department. It would serve as a "model for similar establishments in our larger colonies."

The building is capable of containing over 75 prisoners; and was constructed at a total cost of 1,411*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, the payment of which extended over a period of 21 months, viz., from June 30th, 1858, to March 31st, 1860. The lamentable state of the cells, which had been previously substituted for a gaol, rendered it a primary necessity to complete this important public building.

(2.) The Queen's house. The Blue Book report of last year was mainly comprised of the report of the Commissioners for erecting this valuable building. Visitors from the islands pronounced it to be superior in comfort and elegance of finish to government houses which have cost 4,000*l.*; notably those of Antigua and Dominica. The total cost has been, including painting and papering, 1,847*l.* 9*s.* 1½*d.*, extending over a period of two years and nine months, from March 31st, 1860, to December 31st, 1862.

(3.) The pier. This will be completed by the end of the present month, and crane and tramway will then, I trust, be in full operation. The exact cost of this valuable public work cannot be given to a fraction, but it will certainly be within 1,100*l.* The length from end to end is 266 feet; 141 feet are of masonwork, 25 feet wide, and 125 feet of woodwork, 15 feet wide. The depth of water at the end of the pier varies from 10 to 12 feet, according to tide. A well of sweet water has been excavated at the south end of the pier, and will furnish the shipping and many of the poorer inhabitants (these latter often deprived of this necessary of life) with the essential requisite of water, for which they mainly depended on the kindness of the proprietors of a few cisterns.

(4.) The compilation of the island laws, and many other works and objects of public utility, have been carried out during my tenure of office. I pass over these, however, simply drawing attention to the fact, that all these great public undertakings having been brought to a close, it will be no unimportant feature and result in the future of Nevis.

That a large permanent revenue being assured, she will have ample resources, after allowing for her ordinary expenditure, to carry on other improvements, and march pari passu with the requirements of the age.

Legislation.

9. This has been unimportant, except as regards the establishment of a Volunteer Protective Force for the space of three years. Sixty young men have been drilled during the past year to the use of the smooth-bore percussion musket, in the town of Charlestown, and 30 have been enrolled and drilled in Newcastle, the other village in the island.

NEVIS.

Imports and Exports.

10. The imports show an apparent diminution of 2,058*l.* as compared with those of 1861, but the average of consumption has been fully maintained,—the diminution of value really arising from the fact that no steam engines have been imported during the past year, while the importation of other machinery has also slightly decreased.

11. The exports present only an apparent increase in value of 2,552*l.*, though the quantity of sugar exported during this year has been considerably increased; the low price for produce makes the sterling value proportionably much lower than for the preceding year.

General.

12. A building which might contribute much to the welfare of Nevis, if its advantages were more generally known, deserves special notice. The Bath-house is situated about one quarter of a mile to the southward of Charlestown, and has recently been purchased by a Barbadian merchant. If proper encouragement were afforded, and with a small outlay of capital, it could be converted into a commodious hotel. The building is well situated on an elevated piece of land, and stands on its own grounds in the style of an Italian villa. The panorama which it embraces is very extensive and diversified. There are three storys; each story has a covered gallery facing northward. There are at present 18 bed-rooms, and 4 sitting-rooms, besides two large halls for general visitors. The hot baths which spring in the immediate vicinity are most efficacious in cases of chronic rheumatism. Several persons have, within the present year, derived the greatest benefit from their use; and a gentleman from Greenock, at present residing there, has in the space of three weeks been cured. On his arrival he had to be lifted in and out of the bath, and he has now the perfect use of his limbs. There are two baths, one, the hot bath, is of the temperature of 100 degrees, and is sufficiently large to swim in; the other is a tepid bath; it is not so large, and its temperature varies from 70 to 75 degrees.

13. The Barbadian managers now settled on the different estates, which have been purchased within the last three years by planters from Barbados, have imparted new energy to the agriculture of the island; not only has the cultivation of the cane been immensely extended and improved, but Indian corn, yams, and other provisions have been largely grown. A good example has thus been set to all classes to provide for times of dearth, and unexpected contingencies, such as might arise during the present deplorable American conflict, during which the island might at any time be reduced to a state of comparative starvation by the stoppage of the supplies of staple food.

14. It is most gratifying on this the last occasion on which I shall have to report upon the condition of Nevis, to be able to say that her resources are permanent, and proportionate to her wants; her cultivation and general well-being are unquestionably progressing. Mr. Musgrave makes the following concluding remarks in his Blue Book report for 1860:—

"I have already in my Despatch, No. 132, of the 15th December 1860, acquainted "your Excellency with my impression on arrival in the island, and noticed the improve- "ment which is manifest here, the introduction of energetic intelligence and capital; I "still entertain hopeful anticipations for the future of the intelligence." I fully concur in the anticipation then entertained; many of them have indeed been fully realized.

Nevis, 21st March, 1863.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 38.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
May 4, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the report of President Longden, forwarding the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year ended the 31st December 1862.

No. 16, April 21, 1863.

I have not yet visited the Virgin Islands, and the very short period of my service here, does not warrant me to offer an opinion on either their moral, social, or political

condition, but I may remark, Mr. Longden declares that the people removed from civilizing influences are retrograding, and he evidently entertains a gloomy picture of the future, if the unbounded, or I presume it may be said lawless liberty of the inhabitants of those islands is not restrained in time. VIRGIN ISLANDS.

I entertain a very favourable opinion of Mr. Longden's good temper and judgment, and I have no doubt every constitutional means at his disposal will be exercised to ensure the welfare of the people under his care by wise and just enactments.

The effort made to extend education should also tend to prevent the evil Mr. Longden anticipates, yet the fact that so small a dependency of the Crown should have been permitted to do pretty much as they pleased for so many years, and by their obstinacy incur a debt, leaving their creditors unpaid to the present time, as remarked upon by the President, leads one to suppose that Mr. Longden cannot be far wrong in his anticipation for the future of the Virgin Islands. From the year 1819 to 1832.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL.
Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 16.

(No. 16.)

Government House, Tortola,
April 21, 1863.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1862.

Revenue.

2. The revenue of the year was 2,021*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, including a balance of 8*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* from 1861. Of this revenue, 57*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* was derived from the export duty on copper ore, formerly a profitable item of revenue, but which ceased early last year, in consequence of the abandonment of the mines.

Expenditure.

3. The expenditure was 1,919*l.* 1*s.* 2½*d.*, leaving a balance in the Colonial Treasury on the 1st January 1863, of 102*l.* 16*s.* 1½*d.* This balance is appropriated to meet the expenses of a general measure of compulsory vaccination, and the then unfinished repairs of the chapel and school at Kingston. The expenditure of 1862 was characterized by the most rigid economy, including only the maintenance of the establishment, and such repairs of public buildings and miscellaneous expenses as were indispensable.

4. The public debt of the colony amounts to 4,183*l.* This debt consists of the salaries of public officers, rent of buildings hired for the use of the public, and other ordinary expenses of the Colonial Government for the thirteen years between 1819 and 1832, during which the then Council and Assembly refused to vote any taxes for the maintenance of the public service. No interest has ever been paid on this debt. In accordance with the desire of the Secretary of State, I have strongly pressed upon the attention of the Legislature the claims of the public creditors. For more detailed information, I would respectfully refer to the despatches I have recently had the honour to address to your Excellency's predecessor on this subject.

Militia.

5. There is a local militia, consisting of an artillery force of 20 men, and an infantry force of 100 men. There is a monthly drill, and the attendance is as numerous as can be expected from the desultory habits of the people. The artillery have attained a reasonable proficiency in their drill, although the only practice available for them is the firing of salutes or blank cartridges from two old French brass guns, mounted on trucks. A couple of small field-pieces (six-pounders) have been asked for as a loan from Her Majesty's Government, and would be very useful for the reasons set forth in my Despatch No. 13, 27th June last. Many of the militiamen serving in the infantry corps are recruited from the country districts, and the attendance therefore is more irregular. Both officers and men serve gratuitously, and the former have spared no pains to teach their men. The privates are supplied with a light and simple uniform suitable to the climate. The monthly muster is a bond of union, bringing together the

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

country people, and leading the most respectable of the working classes and of the peasant proprietary, to identify themselves in the cause of good order, and stimulating a wholesome feeling of self-respect.

6. The public works carried through in 1862 were, as I have stated, only repairs. The old Court-house having become dangerous through decay, was necessarily abandoned, and a hired house was fitted for holding the sessions of the General Court, the magistrate's petty sessions, and the meetings of the Legislature. The cost was 27*l.* The infirmary for the sick poor was repaired, and the roof re-shingled at a cost of 33*l.* The repairs of the chapel and school at Kingston were in progress at the close of the year.

Legislation.

7. Six ordinances were passed in 1862 ; namely,—

No. 1. Tonnage duty ordinance.
No. 2. Import and export duty ordinance.
No. 3. Compulsory vaccination ordinance.
No. 4. Salt pond ordinance.
No. 5. Law Agent's ordinance.
No. 6. Spirits licence ordinance.

The most important of these measures were the ordinances Nos. 2 and 6, abolishing the old traders' and huckters' licences, which had become burdensome and unproductive ; and lowering the duty on the importation of flour. In lieu of these taxes, duties have been imposed on the importation of spirits, wine, beer, salt meats, dry goods, and groceries. Also, an annual tax of 4*l.* on all public houses.

8. The necessity of a *compulsory* system of vaccination in the West Indies is self-evident. The other measures, for the removal of unnecessary restrictions, and for supplying temporarily the want of barristers to protect the rights of the poor and ignorant, are, I think, of benefit to the colony. These ordinances, Nos. 3, 4, 5, although passed by the Council in 1862, were not assented to by authority of your Excellency's predecessor until the commencement of 1863, and hence are not inserted in the Blue Book among the ordinances promulgated last year.

Population.

9. The numbers of the people are given in the Blue Book from the census of 1861. There has been a slight increase from the excess of births over deaths, and perhaps the present numbers may be assumed at 6,300.

Education.

10. The education of the people is far from being satisfactory. The subject is one which early attracted my serious attention, and almost immediately after my arrival I had the pleasure of attending at an examination of the children in the principal Church school held by his lordship the Bishop of Antigua. Since that time I have assisted at public examinations of some Wesleyan schools, and other Church schools, and I have lost no fitting opportunity at my seat in the Council, or in presiding at public meetings of a Religious character, in expressing my views of the extreme importance of extending largely the means of education, and urging the people to avail themselves of the means open to them.

11. Lest I should seem to attach too much importance to this subject, I venture to occupy your Excellency's attention with a short review of the present state of this colony. Of the whole area of these islands, about seven-eighths have been abandoned as sugar estates regularly cultivated. The estates so abandoned have passed by purchase or rental into the hands of a peasant proprietary, who obtain their living by the rearing and sale of stock, or the cultivation and sale of provisions, not for the supply of the colony, but for that of St. Thomas', the demand of which affords a constant and generally remunerative market. The necessary consequence of this is, the gradual extinction of any resident white proprietary, and, with that, the decline of their influence, and the loss of that insensible education which was diffused from the residence of the many educated gentlemen who formerly resided through the islands. Their place is now only marked by the ruins of their houses, and in many parts of this island of Tortola, and through the smaller islands of this group, a generation is growing up, uninfluenced by the daily spectacle of any higher civilization than their own, and in such utter ignorance that I do not hesitate to say it threatens to degenerate into a state of barbarism, unless arrested, worse than any that obtained in the days of slavery. My able predecessor, Mr. Price,

the present Lieutenant-Governor of Dominica, foreseeing the evil, procured from the Legislature in 1857, a grant of 50*l.* a year for the purposes of education. This grant was placed under the management of three commissioners, consisting of the minister of the Church of England and the chief Wesleyan minister, under the presidency of the Chief Justice. In order to carry on Mr. Price's commencement, I have proposed to the Legislature, and they have passed an Ordinance (since assented to), by which the grant is increased and made payable, pro ratâ, at the rate of 5*s.* for each scholar attending 200 days in the year, the average being struck from the general attendance. At the same time, the schools receiving such aid are subjected to the general inspection of the commissioners, and to facilitate such inspection, two more members are added to the commission. I admit the utter inadequacy of this aid. I can only say that it is as much as the resources of the colony can afford; but I must in justice add, that a nearly equal sum has been expended last year, and will be required for the next two or three years, for the repairs of school-houses and schoolmasters' residences.

12. In regard to the actual state of education in 1862, the returns show a total of 432 children nominally attending the day-schools; but from frequent visits to different schools, and an examination of the registers of daily attendance, I am satisfied that the average attendance does not exceed 250. The attendance at the Wesleyan Sunday Schools is entered as 401, the greater part of whom also attend the day-schools. On the whole, I believe I may fairly estimate the entire number of children who receive any kind of education at 500; and as, out of a population of over 6,000, there must be more than 1,200 children of an age to profit by instruction (say from 5 to 14), it follows that more than half of the children in the colony are growing up in utter ignorance. It seems inevitable that, as time goes on, the number and influence of the few remaining European gentlemen will decline. The control of the Legislature will then fall more completely into the hands of the coloured race. There is no qualification whatever requisite for a seat in the council, and the qualification for voters is so moderate that all men of common industry may possess it. Thus the future of the colony is in the hands of a generation growing up in the most unbounded freedom and independence, and if they be not taught in time the common duties of humanity, their liberty may become a curse instead of a blessing to themselves and the colony.

Imports.

13. The imports show a decrease in 1862, as compared with 1861, of 2,106*l.* Of this, 745*l.* is attributable to the suspension of mining operations in Virgin Gorda, that sum being the difference between the value of mining machinery, &c. imported in 1861 and 1862. The remaining difference is in flour, of which the value of 3,445*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* was imported in 1861, against 2,020*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* last year. This decrease is attributable also to the same cause,—the withdrawal of the people employed at the mines being the direct cause.

Exports.

14. These show a diminution of 5,139*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* This is still owing to the same cause. The copper ore exported in 1861, was valued at 10,120*l.*, in 1862 at 2,100*l.*, and the mining implements sent away at 1,000*l.*, making together 3,100*l.*, which, deducted from the above sum of 10,120*l.*, shows a deficiency from this cause alone of 7,020*l.* The general exports of colonial produce have therefore increased in the last year by 1,880*l.*, or 17 per cent., of which one half occurred in sugar.

Gaols.

15. The returns relative to prisoners and gaols continue to show the same small numbers as in former years, the greatest number of prisoners in confinement at any one time during the year being nine, equivalent to 0·14 per cent. of the population.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Governor Hill, C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. R. LONGDEN,
President.

DOMINICA.

DOMINICA.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to His Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 22.)

MY LORD DUKE, Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 18, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report of Lieutenant-Governor Price, with the Blue Book of Dominica for the year ended the 31st December 1862.

No. 42, May 11, 1863.

I have carefully perused the Lieutenant-Governor's Report, and although the past condition of Dominica was not as satisfactory as should be wished, yet I indulge in the hope that the present Legislature and energetic Executive will accomplish much that is desirable, and I view with satisfaction the new School Act, as well as the efforts now made to improve the interior communications of the island, as an index of improvement in the right direction.

* * * * * *

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 42.)

Enclosure in No. 17.

SIR, Government House, Roseau, May 11, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this colony for 1862, and to call your attention to the accompanying Report upon it.

2. I have purposely refrained from devoting a separate heading to the state of political matters. The experiment of an appeal to the country, after an exclusive predominance of a particular party for about 17 years, was made in June, but I do not consider it otherwise than premature to offer observations upon recent political events at so short a period after the change of parties in the Legislature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. PRICE,
Lieutenant-Governor.

His Excellency Colonel Hill, C.B.,
Governor-in-Chief, Antigua.

REPORT on the Dominica Blue Book, 1862.

Finance.

1. The revenue of 1862 exceeded that of 1861 by 1,000*l.* 13*s.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
That of 1861 was - - -	12,526	13	0
That of 1862 was - - -	13,527	6	0

The increase is due principally to imports, on which there was a gain of 608*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, and to a tax on incomes, 447*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* not collected in 1861. The collections under the Road Act furnished an excess also of 305*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.* There was, on the other hand, a slight decrease under the heads of export and tonnage duties, harbour fees, house tax, and rum duties and licences.

2. The expenditure of 1862 was lower than that of 1861 by 538*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*, notwithstanding that the militia cost the island 532*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, that 300*l.* was repaid on account of the construction of a jetty, and that there was in 1862 a slight increase of expenditure in other items. The relative expenditure of the two years was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1861 - - - - -	13,611	13	6
1862 - - - - -	13,073	2	7

3. There was a decrease of expenditure in the following items in the latter year, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Drawbacks	42	3	11
Poor	225	15	10
Medical	315	17	4
Miscellaneous	551	0	9
Roads	432	5	11

and some minor items also. Of the 551*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* under the head of "Miscellaneous," 462*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* is attributable to the cost of entertaining His Royal Highness Prince Alfred on his visit in 1861.

Imports and Exports.

4. The declared value of imports in the two years was—

	£	s.	d.
1861	55,754	10	0
1862	60,592	6	11

and that of exports—

	£	s.	d.
1861	100,381	4	0
1862	94,290	15	11

Public Works and Buildings.

5. Scarcely a single building was, in 1862, in a good state of repair. The court-house, built in 1815, is still in a most dangerous condition. The doors of the cells in the new gaol were tumbling to pieces, and the woodwork of the new Government house already exhibited, as it still does, symptoms of decay from not a particle of paint having been used upon it, either inside or outside, since its erection. A handsome new set of iron entrance gates were imported in 1860, but that and the two succeeding years passed without their being erected, and the grounds of the Governor were consequently accessible at all hours to stray horses, goats, and sheep. It is, however, to be observed, that the new gates were found to be a little damaged on being unpacked, and there was then no one here who was competent to repair them. A temporary wooden gate was not, however, apparently thought of.

6. The military buildings, transferred to the colony on the removal of the troops, were scarcely an exception to the general rule of permissive decay. The old adage of "a stitch in time saves nine," might just as well never have passed into a household word, for all the good it has worked on the legislative mind of Dominica. Painful for me to write this,—painful perhaps to those to whom the blame belongs,—painful beyond doubt to the tax payer, but as true, alas! as that there were remedial means within reach, and that no man put forth his hand to seize them.

7. The only new work of any consequence performed in 1862, was a jetty carried from the shore to a rock, formerly known as "Table a Diable." This was constructed from means at my disposal, part of which has been repaid by the new House of Assembly with the consent of the Council. It is a useful and respectable public work. In commemoration of the visit of His Royal Highness Prince Alfred to Dominica in 1861, this structure bears the name of "Prince Alfred's jetty." It had been talked of for years, as a work possible, but extremely difficult, yet it was executed in a few months at no excessive cost, and although it has been well knocked about by ground seas, I see no symptoms of insecurity. It will probably endure for hundreds of years, unless shaken down by an earthquake.

Roads.

8. Whatever may have been the case in the good old times in the town of Roseau, I am now only acquainted with one person who "keeps a carriage." That vehicle, a gig of humble pretensions, occasionally makes its appearance, drawn by a sober mule. On a few country estates, as well as near the town, carts are employed for agricultural purposes. Hence it will be perceived that the ordinary mode of progression for all classes is either on foot or on horseback. This being the case, one might not unreasonably expect that roads, formed in by-gone years, should present a decently passable appearance under the influence of an annual outlay of from 1,600*l.* to 1,800*l.* But this is not, in many cases, the true state of affairs. In an island full of mountains and rivers, both presenting obstacles which require a little engineering skill to overcome, up to 1862 there were neither what an Englishman understands by the name of "roads," bridges of any importance or in any number, nor a public engineer to look

DOMINICA.

after either. Here and there, it is true, some skilful manager of an estate, having a contract with the Road Board, would expend the money in a creditable manner, and make a few miles of road not unpleasant to travel upon at an easy pace; but the rule of the country seemed to me to be to make every possible effort to avoid the substance, but maintain the shadow of a bare means of communication between one place and another. Where the money went, if not on the roads, I cannot be expected to surmise. If it was devoted to road repair, it is greatly to be regretted that some palpable traces of amendment are not more generally visible on the highways.

9. Against the mismanagement of the roads the whole country cried out on my arrival in the month of December 1861. From the councillor in the Legislature, to the peasant cultivating our fertile inland works, uprose the demand, "Where are the roads for which we are taxed? Give us the means of easy progress between our homesteads and our markets. Don't take our money and refuse value for it!" Than this complaint nothing could be more just, as, on the other hand, nothing could be more unfair than withholding what was asked. But the neglect of years cannot be remedied by fitful attempts at amendment, and a sum of money, more than amply sufficient to keep good roads in first-rate order, will not do what is required on 9 out of 10 lines of road in Dominica,—re-make them from end to end.

10. The condition, then, of our highways and byeways being a question of such vital importance, one would expect that the proposal to appoint a particular officer to superintend the work would be seconded by men of all classes and all opinions. The popular Assembly, after the June elections, did take the matter up in a spirit which reflected infinite credit upon that body, but it will scarcely be believed in Great Britain that it was with the greatest difficulty, and only under the pressure of the Royal Prerogative in the filling up the Board of Council, to the fullest extent then warranted by the Queen's instructions, that I succeeded, five months after the first meeting of the new House, in getting the measure ultimately passed for the appointment of a public engineer and road inspector.

11. The effect of this measure will not be seen till after the lapse of some time, but I cannot doubt that it will be of a highly salutary character, notwithstanding that an unpaid and irresponsible Board will still continue to control the general affairs of the roads. The system requires sensible alteration before it can be said that the highways are placed in a permanently satisfactory condition. The present members of the Board are perfectly qualified, both by character and ability, for the performance of their duties, but the difficulty is to get them to devote the time necessary for its due execution.

12. It is projected to restore a road which formerly connected Roseau with the north-eastern shores, but which is now overgrown with trees, many of them a yard in diameter. A journey, which now lasts ten hours by sea and land, will be then limited to some four or five hours of inland travelling, and I trust that I am not too sanguine in my hope that this most convenient means of communication will be ultimately effected. I passed over it myself on foot in three days, and I see no reason why it should not be accomplished at a small outlay.

13. I append the copy of the first report since his appointment, presented to the Road Board by Mr. Blanc, the Provisional Inspector of Roads and Civil Engineer. It is well worth attention.

Bridges.

14. There is no structure deserving of this name in the well-watered island of Dominica. From the east and north the capital town of Roseau is approached by fords through a river of singular beauty, but, in time of flood, of very unquestionable danger. The not altogether occasional destruction of life in crossing these fords, and the convenience of the country people in their progress towards the market, have really never roused the public to spend one shilling in the construction of a bridge. It has indeed been the common talk for perhaps one or two hundred years, but I believe a collection of cut stones, which I have myself had prepared from a fund at my disposal, and which now encumber the river side, afford the only palpable evidence that such a thing as a bridge was ever in serious contemplation. I trust I may be spared and enabled to complete it, or that a discerning Legislature will one day assume the work. I should only be too happy to transfer the credit of such a structure to the body to whom that credit should, beyond a doubt, belong.

Agriculture and Labour.

15. Dominica appears to be entering a new phase. One cannot quite say that the low prices of sugar have caused the cultivation of that article to cease, for the exports

still reach about 4,000 hogsheads, but I think there is a tendeucy to concentrate the culture upon those fertile estates which have always maintained a certain ability to struggle with hard times. The discovery is on the point of being made that the labourer, working on shares upon estates, all but abandoned, makes but a poor living out of his bargain. Were he to keep a correct account of his labour, he would probably find that his daily wages, derivable from his quota of the produce, after the customary deductions, would amount to a sum very very far below what he could have obtained had he laboured on an estate working on the ordinary plan of daily wages. If my supposition be correct, I would follow it up by asserting that this is rather a fortunate circumstance for Dominica than otherwise. It is not, upon the whole, favourable to the culture of sugar. A few choice and well-managed estates may contend successfully against low prices, and a few speculators may for a time continue to eke out a living on the "lion's share" when working on halves or thirds; but, in the main, sugar is not a success, and, in my opinion, the sooner it is abandoned, except on a large scale and in particular localities, the happier will it be for the people. What, however, must take its place? Providence does not permit us to be idle, and industry must have some reward. There are two staples which present themselves prominently, while a variety of minor produce would probably be found to answer.

16. The first is coffee. Years ago Dominica was a large exporter of this produce, but a blight came both over the trees, and, I fear, over the energies of the growers. So it has all but ceased to be an article of export. But I am not of the number of those who think that coffee cannot be restored. Were new localities selected for its production, and new descriptions imported from Cuba, Jamaica, or Ceylon, I am of opinion that coffee would still succeed in Dominica. An attempt in this direction would, at any rate, soon set the question at rest.

17. But it is to the less doubtful production of cocoa that we may look for a restoration of a staple. Soil, climate, situation, and the facility of its culture, all appear to warrant the notion that this island might, if it would, enrich itself by cocoa production.

The following table exhibits the exports for ten years to 1862:

	lbs.
1853	89,277
1854	52,847
1855	57,327
1856	27,520
1857	64,626
1858	124,955
1859	52,751
1860	96,489
1861	113,460
1862	181,348

What seems specially required to give vitality to this trade is the ultimate utter abandonment of the cultivation of those poor descriptions which reduce the character of our cocoa in the European markets, and the gradual substitution of better sorts.

18. In this direction the newly-elected Assembly are making an important stride; money has been voted, both for the importation of the best seed from Trinidad, and for premiums to those persons who shall establish a certain number of trees. I augur well from this public spirit in so fair a cause. The culture of cocoa is peculiarly well suited to the habits and capacities of our rural population. Land can be obtained on very easy terms, and the plant is not, I believe, obnoxious to the same casualties as coffee. I hope an attempt to restore the latter, however, may some day engage more public attention than it has hitherto done.

19. But even were there no reasonable hope of establishing a paying staple in the room of sugar, the labourer of Dominica should not abandon his land. Antigua and Barbados can both be reached within a short space of time, and the price of fruit and of all sorts of vegetables is sufficiently high to justify greater attention in their production than is generally bestowed. I know of scarcely any English garden produce (except European fruits) that the heights of this island will not abundantly raise, while all tropical productions fit for food are, in all seasons, a positive certainty on the average. But there is little or no interest evinced in raising more produce than our local consumption, or the supply of a few occasional French boats demands. No one thinks of planting 10 or 20 acres even of yams, and sending them on his own account to a neighbouring market, and one can, therefore, scarcely expect that produce of a higher

DOMINICA.

value, but requiring a little more skill, should receive the consideration which I think it deserves.

20. With regard to the supply of labour on regular estates, I can but quote the words of Mr. Berkeley, when that gentleman reported upon the affairs of 1860:—

"There is an abundance of labour to be had on reasonable terms, though, perhaps, "it is not equally distributed over the whole island, and some districts do not expe- "rience the same facility in this respect as others." This observation, as applied to 1862, also I endorse.

Education.

21. The Act of 1857, which would have expired on 30th September in 1862, was renewed till 31st December by a short enactment, preparatory to a new measure to come into force in 1863.

22. It is no easy matter to determine the real amount of education that has been diffused during the five years operation of the Act. No provision having been made for the most trifling money payment by the parents, they have not yet learnt that education is a thing valuable in itself to the recipient, and the attendance of scholars has not been as regular, therefore, as it will probably be under the system which will succeed that of 1857. The sentiments of the clergy of all denominations, on the subject of some small fees being demanded, were collected during the year, and although they have not been fixed by the Act of 1863 at as high a rate as was at first advocated by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Roseau, the small payment of one penny per week for children from seven years old (under seven they are admitted free in 1863) will, I trust, ensure a more regular attendance.

23. The Act of 1863 enacts that the daily studies at all schools should open and close with the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Doxology. I trust the common ground upon which children of most Christian denominations can therefore meet in this preliminary and closing worship, will not prove distasteful to the Roman Catholic clergy, and that an Act based upon, as I think, sound and liberal principles, will secure their adhesion.

24. On the whole, I fear I must pronounce that the examination of the masters under the new Act (held early in 1863) has disclosed (with a very few exceptions) such an amount of darkness and ignorance in their minds, as to make it extremely doubtful whether any general good whatever has arisen to the children from the educational grant of 700*l.* a year between the years 1857 and 1863. Yet I will not despair of a wholly secular Board, assisted by an able and earnest inspector and examiner, being able to impart such modest and necessary education as the condition of the bulk of the people appears to require.

25. In the generality of cases, as far as my experience in the West Indies warrants an expression of my opinion, the attempt to make education subservient to usefulness in after life has not been crowned with success. It is of little service to the agricultural labourer to cram his head with high mathematics, or with any science whatever which he cannot apply to his future daily pursuit. His ordinary converse is of as humble a character as his occupation, and while opportunity may be afforded by some other means to really promising capacities and elegant tastes to distinguish themselves in the world of letters and of science, it appears to me to savour of cruelty to make the field labourer waste the best years of his life at a village school in the acquisition of knowledge which he can scarcely ever hope to turn to profitable account. It is perhaps, therefore, scarcely a subject for serious lamentation that the greater part of our country masters and mistresses are not competent to lead the rural youth of Dominica beyond reading, writing (in which they excel), and the first rules of arithmetic.

26. The schools in Roseau, under the superintendence of the Roman Catholic Bishop, and the assiduous ladies of the convent, continue to present great advantages to the inhabitants who belong to that communion. It is to be regretted, however, that at the time of my writing this report, his lordship has closed the country schools receiving aid from the former board. I am not in possession of his reasons for doing so.

27. The schools of the Wesleyan connexion, however, still avail themselves of the public grant for education.

28. Patent as the fact I fear is, that many boys who wrote perfectly well at 14 years of age, can at 20 scarcely scrawl their own names. I consider the Legislature of Dominica to have exhibited great patience, as well as public spirit, in continuing what must, under its circumstances, be conceded to be a very liberal grant for educational purposes, although several important districts still remain unprovided with schools, which, in fact, they must continue to do until the country can afford a larger grant. A Bill is now

before the Legislature for the establishment of a grammar school under a further grant, so that those lads, whose circumstances enable them to continue their studies after dismissal from public schools, will have the opportunity of doing so at a moderate expense.

29. Ample time is permitted to the children to receive from their respective pastors that religious education which the Board is prohibited by the Act from meddling with.

30. Although, upon the whole, there is much to be regretted in the habits of some of the country people, many of whom are apparently in as dark a condition as were their progenitors when captured in Africa for sale, I cannot pronounce that there is more barbarism in Dominica than in some other of these colonies. Still, perhaps there is no colony where a fairer field is presented to the philanthropist, for the people are peculiarly impressionable, and honest guidance in the paths of religion and virtue would probably not be thrown away.

Crime.

31. The Inspector of Prisons has reported that on the 31st December last there were 43 prisoners in gaol, of whom 11 were females. The commitments during the year were 276, and there were 166 men and 97 women undergoing various grades of punishment. As compared with 1861, there was a decrease of 30 prisoners.

Gaol Discipline.

32. The Inspector of Prisons says:—"A penal settlement is much required to which "prisoners convicted of grave crimes could be sent to undergo their punishment, for "sentences of the superior courts lose very much of their effect in being carried out in "the neighbourhood of the scene of crime, at but a short distance perhaps, from the "home, family, and friends of the criminals, and unavoidably without that rigorous "severity of discipline attendant on their condition in a place specially appointed for the "reception and employment of convicts."

33. The great want is, that of competent overseers to regulate the labour of what is not uncommonly but appropriately called the "pleasure gang." Anything more inefficient than the labour performed out of doors it is impossible to conceive. All attempts to induce a more wholesome state of things must necessarily fail until overseers, trained in some well-regulated prisons, shall be obtained for our service. As far as my personal observation enables me to speak, I am of opinion that while the free labourer may earn 9*d.* in the cane field, about 3*d.* or 4*d.* would be fair remuneration for what the members of the penal gang are prevailed upon to perform in return for a subsistence that costs the country about 6*d.* per diem.

Conclusion.

34. I have reviewed this report with some anxiety. Required, as the administrator of a Government is, to give the honest result of his observation in a place where abuses may perhaps have prevailed for years, he is almost of necessity impelled to make reflections, at least by implication, upon persons and parties whose duty it should have been to put an end to those abuses. While he "sets down naught in malice," it is equally his duty to "extenuate nothing," but he cannot escape the consequences of his free expression of opinion. His statements may be distorted, or altogether denied by those who may fancy their behaviour to be the particular ground of his observations, yet he is unworthy of his commission if he exaggerates or falls short of the truth, and this ought to be a sufficient answer to objectors. But I trust I shall not be considered as improperly excusing the neglect of public affairs, by any present or antecedent body of legislators in Dominica, if I endeavour to explain why it is that most West India colonies, and Dominica among the number, exhibit so few marks of public advancement. If the prosperity of a country may be judged of by handsome public edifices, by good roads and bridges, and by other evidences of a like character, I should say that Dominica had never been a prosperous place. There are no remains, at least, of any such monuments of civilization discernable here at this time, for what was done in the way of forts and military buildings was done by the British Government, and not by the Local Legislatures.

35. But there is no reason to doubt that Dominica in former times did enjoy a full share of the prosperity common once to the whole group of islands. Unfortunately the profits of agriculture were not spent within the colony, and it mattered very little to the prosperous absentee whether the public buildings were well constructed or well conserved, or whether the roads presented a creditable appearance, so long as he received his annual quota of sugar or coffee, and maintained a respectable balance at his bankers.

36. The habit of neglect, so apparent in most of these minor colonies, therefore, seems to be warranted in some measure by the fact, that when they *were* prosperous, so very

DOMINICA.

little was done in the way of local improvement. "What was good enough for a state of prosperity must surely be sufficient for one of comparative adversity." The argument is plausible, and there is perhaps something in it.

37. But times have changed. The West India labourer is now his own master, and the prosperity of the slave owner is transferred to the *quondam* slave and his successors. Some future historian of Dominica will probably be able to point to greater local evidences of local prosperity under freedom than were ever exhibited in times of forced labour. While the labourer, however, enjoys his condition, that of the modern planter is scarcely one to be envied. Indeed, were the pressure of taxation to fall upon *him*, he would no longer be able to hold his own. But now the whole population have a direct interest in the public convenience within the island being promoted in every possible manner, and the responsibility of the governing powers is immensely increased. This seems to be at least growing upon the minds of the people, and it is fortunate that it is so. They seem determined to exact full value for their taxation. Let us hope that the now dawning public spirit of the people, may evince itself in such a manner ere long, as may for ever dispel the facetious obloquy with which the tourist has felt impelled to describe the modern condition of Dominica. Let us, however, attribute, with a becoming degree of charity, the neglect of public affairs, by the representatives of the people since emancipation, to the evil influences of by-gone times, and gather hope from the growing prosperity and self-respect of a hardy, intelligent, well-behaved, and in many instances an industrious peasantry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. PRICE,
Lieutenant-Governor.

His Excellency Col. Hill, C.B.,
Governor-in-Chief, Dominica.

MAURITIUS.

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

No. 18.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Officer Administering the Government to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 157.)

MY LORD DUKE, Mauritius, August 6, 1863.

I HAVE now the honour to lay before your Grace a Report upon the condition and prospects of the colony, which the Colonial Secretary has drawn up at my request in connexion with the annual Blue Book.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. C. JOHNSTONE,
Administering the Government.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 18.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue for 1862 amounted to 492,324*l.* 6*s.* 11¼*d.*, and exceeded that of the year preceding by 9,535*l.* 10*s.* 9¼*d.*, the amount received in that year being 482,788*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* This increase may be principally traced to the large receipts in the customs, the import duties having exceeded the collections of 1861 by 4,441*l.*, and the exports also being in excess by 4,886*l.* The Ordinance raising additional duties on tobacco and spirits that came into operation on the 1st November 1862, have contributed to the improvement of our import duties, and the large crop of sugar in the past season very sensibly affected the exports.

2. In the other branches of revenue there have been some fluctuations, but of no important character, the revenue from licences, although it did not amount to the estimate for the year, yet exceeded the receipts of 1861 by 5,435*l.* The amount received under the head of fines exceeded the sums paid on that account into the treasury in 1861 by 1,927*l.*, owing to the greater vigilance on the part of the police in detecting and establishing contraventions. The land sales also exceeded those in 1861 by 3,721*l.* The chief falling off in the receipts of 1862, when compared with those of 1861, is visible in the harbour department, and in the registration and mortgage department. The harbour dues were less the amount collected in 1861 by 3,554*l.*, attributable

to the arrivals of vessels having fallen short of the previous year, and owing to the monetary difficulties that prevailed in the commercial portion of the community about the end of 1861, and continued during the past year. There were fewer sales of immoveable property and fewer mutations registered, and the receipts of the registration office for the registration of deeds were less the amount of the previous year by 6,513*l.*

3. The actual expenditure in 1862 (exclusive of railways) amounted to 519,954*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*, and exceeded the revenue by 27,629*l.* This excess is, however, attributable to certain arrears for the transport of mails by steam, due for that service for the year ended March 1861, having been paid in 1862, amounting to 25,000*l.* There was also paid from the Treasury the sum of 10,884*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* for works that had previously been authorized to be taken from balances, and there is classed as an item of expenditure the sum of 12,590*l.*, as the loss on the sale of consols for railway and other purposes. This, although an apparent loss on the general assets of the colony, is not an actual loss to that amount; it is the difference between the selling price of the consols and par, at which they had been valued in the treasurer's account, an apparent profit having been realized at the time of purchase, by taking the consols at par in the accounts, instead of at the buying price. With the deduction of the three foregoing items, amounting to 48,445*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, the ordinary expenditure of 1862 will stand at 471,508*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, and the revenue of the year exceeded that amount by 20,815*l.* 18*s.* 4¼*d.* The expenditure in 1862 thus taken at 471,508*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, only exceeds the expenditure of 1861 by 2,659*l.*, the amount expended in that year being 468,849*l.*

Savings Bank.

4. This useful institution continues to progress favourably, and is gradually making way in the estimation of the Indians, and superseding amongst them their ancient savage custom of secreting their hoardings in holes under the floors of their houses. The number of Indian depositors engaged in agriculture has increased from 487 in 1852 to 1,155 in 1862; deposits in favour of children have risen in the same period, from 556 to 1,046, and those of friendly societies from 10 to 27. Every class of depositors, indeed, has increased double during the last 10 years, with the exception of that of the Creole agricultural labourers, which has been gradually decreasing since the first institution of the bank, and from 98 in 1842 came down in 1862 to 55.

5. The capital of the bank on the 31st December 1862, amounted to 139,000*l.*, being 4,500*l.* in excess of that in 1861, and the number of depositors of every class amounted to 5,702, showing an increase of 325 over the number in the preceding year.

6. The Government does not look to this establishment as a source of revenue, and is satisfied that it should pay its own expenses. The object is double—to ensure to the industrious and poorer classes a secure investment, guaranteed by Government for their savings, at a high rate of interest, and to enable the Government to assist the planters with temporary loans of money at a lower rate, and on better terms, than can be usually had from capitalists.

These advantages appear incontestable, and are now universally appreciated.

7. The Treasurer's report of the position and operations of the preceding year is published in the month of February in every year, and circulated for public information.

Agriculture and Manufactures.

8. The sugar crop of 1862–63 is the largest ever made; it may be computed at 165,000 tons, being an excess of more than 50,000 tons over the crop of last year.

9. These favourable results are due to a most propitious season, as well as to a more extended and more careful cultivation of the soil, the consequence of the larger introduction of immigrants during the two preceding years, the effect of whose labour showed itself in 1862.

10. The season was free from cyclones, which destroy or materially affect vegetation, and abundant rains during the summer months gave full scope to the growth of the cane, and by this rapid development rendered less destructive the attacks of the borer, which are always most injurious in a dry season, with a languishing vegetation.

11. No radical remedy has, however, been found against the borer, which may be considered as having extended itself throughout the whole of the colony.

12. Of the remedial measures proposed in this respect, the most successful and the one most generally in use is to destroy by fire what remains in the fields after the canes have been carried to the mill. Another and perhaps a still more efficacious plan is to change the old system of planting the cane, so as to keep the plants in the ground one instead of two summers, as heretofore, thus materially shortening the time for the propagation of

MAURITIUS.

the insect. This new system does not affect the crop, for although the canes are neither as numerous nor as long as they would otherwise have been, their comparatively healthy state and freedom from injury insures a considerable augmentation in their saccharine qualities.

13. For some time past the plantations in some parts of the country have been visited by a new and most fatal disease, to which old as well as new plants appear equally liable, but which is reported to have been particularly destructive in what are technically called second and third rattoons, *i.e.* canes left to sprout up a second and third time from the same root.

14. The origin of this malady may be very fairly traced to the injudicious practice which has extensively obtained, of forcing the soil with guano to the exclusion of milder manure, and of allowing the land no rest by rotation of crop or remaining fallow for a certain period.

15. These direct violations of the rules of agriculture have brought with them their own punishment; but the attention of the agriculturists has been specially directed to this abuse, and it may be expected that in future the planters will adhere strictly to the exigencies of sound husbandry, and succeed in arresting a disease which, if it were allowed to spread, might become a national calamity.

16. The most satisfactory mode of combating this malady is by a removal of the plants and a substitution of others of another species, and from a different district.

17. A fact worthy of notice in the last crop, is the shipment to Bombay of about 8,000 tons of sugar, thus opening a new and unexpected market to the colonial staple. And it may be added that these sugars, all of fine qualities and equal to the best clayed sugar, and manufactured, moreover, without any admixture of blood or animal charcoal, have a reasonable prospect of being eventually preferred by the natives of India to other sugars (even those made in their own country,) in the manufacture of which ingredients antagonistic to their scruples and prejudices are introduced.

18. The improvement in machinery has arrived at such a degree of perfection and is so universal that hardly one estate in Mauritius produces sugar admissible in England at the 12*s.* 8*d.* duty, and the whole produce of the colony would at once be very materially raised in quality, were the duties in England on a less discouraging footing.

Imports, Exports, Shipping.

IMPORTS.

19. The enclosed comparative statements marked A. and B. exhibit the following results:—

20. A. The total value of imports in 1862 (specie excepted), amounted to 1,926,255*l.*, shewing a decrease on those of 1861 of 322,868*l.*

21. The articles in which the greatest falling off is apparent, are:—

	£
Animals	27,945
Copper sheets and nails	14,653
Gram	31,065
Coloured cottons	35,858
Wheat and flour	25,000
Machinery	53,197
Soap	16,013
Sugar	16,120
Manure	122,486

On the other hand, the value of plain cotton manufactures has increased by 18,000
Hardware 37,000
Spirits and wine 38,000

22. A glut in the market and less demand for the articles in question account for the decrease in 1862 of the value of the importations of animals, coffee, wheat, flour, and guano, in addition to which in the last case there has been a growing suspicion, on the part of the planters, of the too exhaustive quality of guano, and an inclination to form composts less expensive and less trying to the soil. The Coringhy crop of gram having totally failed, a lesser quantity of that grain was of course exported, and the extensive orders for machinery made in the previous year having been completed, the manufacturers of sugar required for the present no further supply.

23. On the other hand, the increase of 39,000*l.* on the value of hardware imported, is accounted for by the large importation of railway material, and that of 10,000*l.* on spirits,

by the increased quantity of West Indian rum shipped to Mauritius for the use of the troops and brought into consumption from bond, to avoid the additional duty on the importation of spirits imposed by Ordinance in the latter part of 1862. The increase of 28,000*l.* arises from the large consumption of wine and spirits during the late epidemic of cholera, and the diminution of the exports from France to America. These same unfortunate intestine dissensions in the United States affected the value of cotton goods imported, diminishing by 36,000*l.* the value of coloured cottons, and increasing the value of the plain imported cottons by 18,000*l.*; having, on the one hand, arrested the direct trade in plain cotton goods to Madagascar from the United States, and thrown it into the hands of some of the English merchants of this place, with an increased demand, while the great rise in price in England prevented in a great measure the execution of the orders limited as to prices which were sent home from Mauritius for coloured cottons, being executed; and during the latter half of last year there was an almost entire cessation of importations of coloured cotton goods.

Customs.—Exports.

24. B. The value of the exports in 1862 (not including specie) amounts to 2,410,538*l.*, showing an increase of 470,747*l.* over that of the exports of 1861.

25. This great increase is attributable in a great measure to the exportation of sugar, on which article alone it reaches the large sum of 477,218*l.*

26. In vessels entered inwards with cargo, the returns for 1862 show a decrease of 113 in number and 25,322 in tonnage, and in vessels entered in ballast, an increase of 13 in number and 1,149 in tonnage. The importations from the United Kingdom show an increase of 7,797 in tonnage, those from Cape of 2,204, and from France of 3,420. Those from British Continental India have fallen off and the foreign trade (France excepted) has a less tonnage of 7,949. No French vessels appear to have arrived from France in ballast last year.

27. The lists of vessels clearing outwards with cargo show in 1862 a diminution of 47 as to number, but an increase of 5,392 as to amount of tonnage.

28. An increase is shown in the clearances to Great Britain, Australasia, the Cape, India, France, and Madagascar, and a considerable decrease in those to Reunion and other foreign countries. The clearances in ballast have slightly increased to India, but diminished to most other places.

29. C. In point of nationality the number of vessels entered inwards and clearing outwards under the British, Arab, Dutch, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Swedish flags, respectively, have diminished in 1862. A slight increase having taken place in vessels under the flag of the United States, Denmark, and the Hanseatic Towns.

30. No vessel under the Spanish and Russian flag, and only one under Prussian or Italian colours, visited this port in 1862.

Immigration.

31. The immigration during 1862 was, as might be expected, less than that of the year preceding, and from a very satisfactory cause, viz., the gradual increasing proportion of Indians who prefer settling in the colony to returning to India, and the consequent increase of the agricultural population. The immigration which 1861 reached, 13,000 souls, has, during the last year, not been beyond 10,000, from whom again deduction must be made of the men introduced for the special service of the railway contractors, reducing the number actually introduced and available for the cultivation of the soil to little more than 7,000.

32. The increased disposition of the Indian immigrants to settle down as labourers, as well as that of the employers to keep on their estates the most experienced and best-conducted men, is shown by the fact that in 1862 the engagements made by the labourers with the same masters exceeded those made in 1861 by 11,381, and actually represented $\frac{48}{100}$ of the whole of the engagements made during the year.

33. The centesimal proportion of female to male immigrants during 1862 was 32·97, but calculating the difference between the numbers of Indian women who arrived or were born in the year, and those who returned to India or died, the result shows a net increase on the year of 2,776 females; and the centesimal proportion of the female to the male population of Indian origin at the close of 1862, amounts to 42·75.

34. The per-centage of mortality in the 33 ships which brought Indian labourers to Mauritius in 1862, amounted to 1·48; the per-centage in 1861 on 44 ships being 1·52. Seven of these 33 ships were placed in quarantine, six for cholera, or aggravated diarrhœa, and one for small-pox. In the latter case two deaths occurred at sea, but none after reaching the quarantine station.

MAURITIUS.

35. The ratio of mortality in children under two years of age, which in 1860 reached 28·99, and in 1861 11·62, was in 1862 only 5·14; a favourable result, mainly attributable to the increased comforts in diet and accommodation afforded to the women and infant passengers, in consequence of the repeated and earnest applications in that behalf from this Government to the Indian authorities, and the increased care and supervision exercised by the agent and medical officer previous to embarkation at the several depôts in India.

36. In point of number, the offences of which immigrants have been convicted in violation of their engagements has augmented. The desertions in 1861 amounted to 2,886, and in 1862 to 4,251; the absences from work having also increased from 5,730 in 1861, to 6,319 in 1862, and the refusals to work from 641 to 770 in the same period. This increase cannot be disputed, but its apparent proportions are somewhat modified by the fact of the number of recorded engagements in 1861 having been more than 10,000 less than those in 1862. By the adoption of this basis of calculation, the convictions for insubordination, which is the gravest of the three offences under consideration, offer a proportionate centesimal difference in 1862 of $\frac{5}{100}$ only in excess of 1861.

37. On the other hand, while the number of offences constituting injury to property has sensibly diminished, an entirely new species of crime has arisen, unknown, or at least too little patent in 1861 to require a separate classification, but which in 1862 rose to the alarming height of 138 convictions, viz., that of the fabrication and passing of false papers.

38. The number of convictions obtained on complaints by Indian labourers against their employers has augmented in 1862, particularly in regard to the non-payment of money wages, an increase attributable to the embarrassment of the colony during a considerable part of the year.

Much as these occurrences are to be regretted, it must be remembered that the law of the colony is extremely stringent in this respect, and that wages are a first lien upon property, and are first paid out of the proceeds of any bankrupt estate.

It may, therefore, happen that payment of these claims is sometimes delayed, but it is not within my recollection that they were ever eventually unsatisfied.

39. Other remedial measures connected with the relations between employers and labourers, such as the formation of a court of appeal, and the extension of the powers of inspection and inquiry of the Protector of Immigrants, form the subject of an ordinance which was transmitted to the Home Government in the course of the year, and has since received Her Majesty's confirmation; and its provisions will be more particularly alluded to in the portion of this report devoted to legislation.

Quarantine.

40. The opinion advanced by many scientific men that the law of quarantine, with its stringent regulations, would prove insufficient to protect the country from cholera, has been strengthened by the fact of cholera having suddenly made its appearance in December 1861, without any apparent cause or sufficient reason.

41. The disease assumed an epidemic form about the first week in January, gradually spreading over the whole country and rather suddenly ceasing, the colony having been considered free about the commencement of July.

42. The number of deaths officially recorded stand as follows:—

In December 1861	45	In April 1862	373
„ January 1862	354	„ May „	420
„ February „	1,582	„ June „	405
„ March „	1,011	„ July „	8

Forming a total of 4,198.

43. Although this mysterious malady came upon a population not altogether unprepared for resistance, having the experience of three epidemics in the preceding seven years, and consequently, the scenes of abject terror and frantic despair, which increased the horrors of the great epidemic of 1854, were providentially absent; the public mind became violently excited, and as is generally the case, a large proportion of the community persisted in asserting that the sickness was introduced into the country by some breach of the law of quarantine, and moreover, that these laches were caused by the neglect or wilful act of Government.

44. These accusations being greedily taken up by the majority of the newspapers, and by some individuals, from whose position in the community a more reasonable line of

conduct might have been expected, it was deemed advisable to institute a careful inquiry into the supposed facts, and a committee formed of the whole Council of Government, having power to examine witnesses on oath, made a very searching investigation, the result of which was embodied in a report, which has been laid before Her Majesty's Government, and from which two facts appeared very clear :—Firstly, that no neglect of duty of any kind could be substantiated, or even made matter of suspicion against any officer of Government; and secondly, that not one of the editors of the newspapers, the columns of which contained daily the most positive and violent denunciations against the carelessness and neglect of the colonial authorities, had ever taken the trouble to ascertain, or even try to ascertain, whether the rumours brought to his ear were founded on fact, but had at once assumed them to be true. The committee having terminated that portion of their task, entered into the consideration of the efficacy of the existing law, and proposed various additions and increased precautions, which are still under consideration, but of the practicability of which there exists some doubt.

45. It will, of course, be the duty of the Government to carry out every precautionary measure recommended for adoption; but it may be eventually acknowledged, that in a country like Mauritius, where the population (437 to the square mile) is so dense, and where the Indian element reaches a per centage of 58 of the population, and has introduced Indian food, habits, and customs, this particular disease, which is ascertained to be endemic in continental India, may not claim to partake of the same character in Mauritius.

Population.

46. The resident population has increased during the past year from 320,049 to 323,000 souls. In the Indian population the increase is from 224,920 to 229,361.

47. This increase is principally attributable to the yearly increasing disinclination of the immigrant population to return to India at the expiration of their industrial residence, and the gradual formation of an Indian agricultural population, likely to replace in a few years the old Creole emancipated negroes, who are fast dying out. In 1862 the immigration amounted to 9,893, and the number who returned to India did not exceed 2,210.

48. This statement would have borne a more favourable aspect, had not the epidemic which raged during the first six months of 1862, caused an excess of deaths over births in the Indian population of 3,240.

Civil Establishment.

49. The duty originally intrusted to the Civil Service Commissioners has now been for some time performed, and there appears to be no pressing call for a second revision of the public offices. The liberal measure which raised the position and emoluments of the subordinate officers of Government, has already borne fruit in the increased efficiency and popularity of the public service. In a few isolated cases, where some establishment was by further experience found to require a larger or a better paid staff, the Civil Service Commissioner has visited and reported on the case, and proper remedial measures have been applied, and on the whole, the organization now works well.

Legislation.

50. The Government railway scheme required the passing of two Ordinances, Nos. 11 and 19. of 1862.

51. The provisions of these laws are framed on the model of the corresponding clauses of the "Lands Clauses Consolidation Act," 8 Vict. c. 20. They were required chiefly in order to enable the Government to obtain summary possession of the land required for the railway undertaking, as well as to use for temporary purposes land adjoining the lines, the general powers of a similar description, conferred by Ordinance No. 57. of 1860, having proved insufficient for a scheme of this nature.

52, *Ordinance* 11. *of* 1862.—The ordinance also confers subsidiary powers of entering into possession for the purpose of survey, of using temporarily and crossing private roads; crossing and altering watercourses; using for the construction of the lines materials from the adjoining ground; and similar objects incidental to such an undertaking.

53. The ordinance also provides that all claims for compensation occasioned by the exercise of the powers which it confers shall be decided by special boards of commissioners to be appointed by the Governor, trifling cases excepted, which are to be settled by the district magistrate.

MAURITIUS.

54. The provisions of this ordinance, combined with those of Ordinance No. 57. of 1860, have enabled the Government and its contractors to carry on the works of the railway.

55. Ordinance 19. of 1862 provides the necessary funds for the construction of the railway by,—

1st. The appropriation towards the expenses of 300,000*l.* to be taken from the balances of surplus revenue of former years; and,

2d. Authorizing the Government to borrow 1,000,000*l.* on debentures.

Besides regulating the mode in which the debentures are to be framed and authenticated, it provides for paying off the whole debt by means of a sinking fund within 25 years.

56. The high rate at which the debentures have been taken up in the money market, viz., at a premium of $7\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., shows that the provisions of the ordinance are well adapted to its purpose.

57. *Ordinance No.* 16. *of* 1862.—The Home Government having, in the beginning of the year, agreed to the engagements of Indian immigrants being extended from three to five years, this ordinance has been passed for legalizing the change, and making some amendments on other parts of the law relating to Indian labourers.

58. The first of these clauses is of great moment to the agricultural interests of the colony, and it is anticipated will have a salutary effect on the Indian population, by forming in them habits of greater steadiness than have prevailed under the former system of short engagements.

59. In order to secure these effects as much as possible, the contracts of service may also stipulate that the immigrants shall remain on the estate to which they are engaged, notwithstanding any change in its ownership. This stipulation, however, is not compulsory.

60. The ordinance further authorizes the engagements in India of female immigrants, to serve at the lighter kinds of labour for which they may be fitted. Hitherto the condition of the female immigrants has been one of great degradation, for, with comparatively few exceptions, they lead lives of idleness and prostitution, while the new immigrants arriving without engagement speedily fall into the same vicious habits.

61. By their being engaged in India, they will enter the colony under circumstances far more favourable to the formation of habits of industry, with its consequent advantages.

62. To prevent the burden from pressing too heavily on the females, and interfering with their duties as wives or mothers, the Protector of Immigrants and the stipendiary magistrate of the district have power to modify and suspend all such contracts.

63. There are also provisions in this ordinance for securing the proper treatment of immigrants during sickness, checking vagabondage, and fabrication of old immigrants tickets, and for modifying the penalties under the former law for illegal absences; which changes, being merely progressive amendments on this branch of the law, do not require to be specially noticed.

64. *Ordinance No.* 2. *of* 1862.—Ordinance No. 2. of 1862 was passed to prevent the inconvenience to the War Department, occasioned by the attachment of sums due by it to its contractors. It extends to such contracts, the limitations as to attachments of this kind, which were introduced by the Ordinance No. 14. of 1844 in regard to contracts with the civil government, and which, after several years experience, have been found sufficient for preventing the public service from suffering from the proceedings of the creditors of its contractors.

65. The Council had to pass a special ordinance (No. 23, of 1862) to enable its committee on the late epidemic of cholera to compel the attendance of witnesses, and their examination on oath in the course of its inquiries. The repetition of special ordinances of this nature (see Government notice of 1st September 1854, and Ordinance No. 4. of 1856,) can only be avoided by the passing of some general law, conferring the powers referred to on the Council of Government and its Committees. But, although the draft of a law for this purpose was laid before council some years ago by the late Governor Sir William Stevenson, it has not been passed, owing to the numerous difficulties with which the subject is surrounded.

66. An additional chapter to the sanitary laws has been added by Ordinance No. 10. of 1863, which confers on the several boards of health the power of creating public cemeteries. The necessity for a change of this nature had been apparent for some time, and fixed itself on the attention of the Government during the late epidemic of cholera. It had been occasioned chiefly by the rapid introduction of Indian immigrants, for whose burial there was no proper accommodation, as (with a few exceptions) the cemeteries in the colony were either attached to places of Christian worship, and the property of the fabrique or churchwardens, or were private burial grounds, attached to large properties.

67. The increase to the expenditure of the colony, caused by the railway undertaking, necessitated an increase on the duties on colonial spirits and the customs on spirits and tobacco imports.

These have been effected by Ordinances Nos. 32. and 33.

68. The only other ordinance requiring to be noticed is No. 34, which authorizes the Governor to make regulations for the protection of the minor harbours in the colony. These harbours, although not required for foreign trade, are constantly resorted to by coasters, and the due preservation of them of a proper depth, with protection of their quays and anchorages, is essential for the security of the smaller vessels which frequent them.

Works and Buildings.

69. The progress of public works has been satisfactory. The substitution, in all practicable cases, of labour, under the immediate supervision of the department, to contract labour, has continued to maintain its superiority in point of economy as well as of increased efficiency.

70. The completion of a time-ball on the Signal Mountain, intended to show every day the precise hour of noon to the shipping in the harbour, by magnetic communication with a transit instrument, at the Surveyor General's office, has been delayed, owing to the exorbitant indemnities asked by proprietors of the various houses to which it was intended to attach the insulators, and it has been found necessary to remove the instrument to ground belonging to Government at the foot of the hill, on which the time-ball is erected.

71. The Lunatic Asylum, which was in a very unsatisfactory condition, has undergone extensive repairs and improvements. The surface-gutters have been superseded by a complete system of underground drainage. The baths, privies, and kitchens have been thoroughly repaired, as well as the roofs and cells.

72. The Quarantine Station at Cannonniers' Point has been placed in repair on all material points. The prison at Flacq has been much improved, and the new lighthouse at Mahebourg has been so far completed as to be ready to receive the stone floor.

Roads and Bridges.

73. Eight bridges have, during the year, been raised, widened, and otherwise extensively repaired, and five have been almost rebuilt.

74. The number of miles of main road kept in repair in 1862 was 367, at a cost of $5\frac{3}{4}d.$ per yard, and 22 miles of road were re-made, widened, raised or lowered, and re-metalled, at the rate of $5s.$ $8\frac{1}{2}d.$ per yard.

75. Twelve thousand yards of branch roads have been made by the department, at the rate of $3s.$ $7d.$ per yard; and the important roads of "Cluny" and "Deux Bras" have been completed, at the rate of $4s.$ $6d.$ per yard.

Grants of Land.

76. During the past year 68,000 square yards of land have been sold by public auction, and 32,000 by private sale, and 896,000 square yards have been leased. The land purchased by Government during the same period has amounted to 1,300, and the free grants to 60,000 square yards.

Public Works.—Railway.

77. The railroad, which is the most formidable public work ever contemplated in Mauritius, is expected to be ready for delivery by the contractors at the following periods, viz.:—

78. The northern line, $30\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, running through the districts of Pamplemousses Rivière du Rempart and Flacq to Grand Rivière, S.E., in March 1864, and the Midland line, $34\frac{4}{5}$ miles in length, running through Plaines Wilhems and Grand Port to Mahebourg, one year later.

79. The junction line, connecting these two lines in one common terminus, is about $1\frac{1}{10}$ mile in length, making the total length $66\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

80. The Northern line will comprehend $8\frac{3}{4}$ miles of cutting and 26 of embankment, and 14 bridges, varying from 25 to 60 feet span, and built of stone or iron.

81. The Midland line will have $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles of cutting and 27 of embanking, the deepest cutting being 20 feet below the surface. There will be on it 21 bridges, amongst which, that over the river St. Louis will be 90 feet in span, and 75 feet above the water; the Rivière La Chaux Bridge will be of 75 feet span, and 70 in height; and the Grande Rivière Bridge will be of 110 feet span, and 130 feet above the bed of the river.

MAURITIUS.

82. The gradients are severe, particularly on the Midland line, where the maximum is 1 in 27, being only 1 in 80 on the Northern line; and this will entail the necessity of having two classes of engines, one for either line exclusively.

83. There will be ten intermediate stations on each line, and the two railways will be brought, by means of the town or junction line, to one central station, so placed as to afford direct access to the harbour.

84. Up to the end of 1862 two miles of rail had been laid.

Mauritius Railways.—Financial Statement.

85. In the latter part of 1861, the contract for the Mauritius railways was accepted by Messrs. Brassey and Wyther, and the agent for the contractors, with a portion of the staff of engineers for the supervision of the works, arrived in the island a few days before the close of that year.

86. The contractors have undertaken to complete, equip, and stock the North line within two years, and the Midland line within three years from the date of their receiving orders to commence the works.

87. According to the contract the cost of these railways has been calculated at 837,941*l.*, being 379,370*l.* for the Northern line, and 458,571*l.* for the Midland.

88. The two questions of the position of the two termini of the two lines, and the adoption of one or two stations, were left undetermined by the contract; and the contract sums of 379,370*l.* for the North line, and 458,571*l.* for the Midland line, included an amount to the extent of 61,280*l.* for the erection of stations with proper sidings and buildings at such places as may be required, and according to designs to be approved by the consulting engineer. In the month of December last, the Legislative Council decided on the union of the two lines of railway at one general terminus in Port Louis, possessing the advantages of a central position in the town, as well as admitting of direct and easy communication with the harbour. The contractors have also agreed to undertake the construction of the works of the additional length of railway necessary to unite the North and Midland lines at the several rates on the schedules of prices in their contract for the construction of the two lines, and on the same terms and conditions as therein set forth.

89. It is quite out of the question making an estimate with any pretention to accuracy on the probable cost of these undertakings. The last estimate has assumed an expenditure of 1,233,440*l.* Even with this enlarged estimate, however, much will depend on the price that will have to be paid for the land and works required for the terminal arrangements in Port Louis.

90. By an ordinance dated the 3d May 1862, the Government were authorized to pay 300,000*l.* from the Colonial Treasury, and to borrow 1,000,000*l.* on debentures for the construction of the railways in the colony. The first named has already been paid over to the credit of the railway department, and 200,000*l.* has been raised on debentures. The issue of 200,000*l.* was offered to public competition in London on the 8th November 1862, and was attended with most satisfactory results. The average premium realized was 7*l.* 14*s.* 4½*d.* per cent., or 15,437*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* on the whole of the debentures disposed of.

91. There has been expended in 1862 on account of these works, the sum of 251,107*l.* 19*s.* 7½*d.*, 126,542*l.* 15*s.* 4½*d.* having been paid within the colony, and 124,565*l.* 4*s.* in England.

Education.—Royal College.

* Not printed.

92. The accompanying report* from the Rector of the Royal College affords satisfactory proof that the anticipation of a steady improvement in this establishment has been fulfilled, and that the difficulties of every nature which beset the Rector at his outset, have in a great measure yielded to his energy and perseverance, and to the conviction forced on the minds of the parents and friends of the rising generation that the course of study laid down at the College, the discipline enforced, and the quality of the instruction imparted, were in every respect superior to those resulting from the system of former days, or to those in force in any other educational establishment in this country.

93. The practical result of this increasing revulsion of public opinion is shown in the fact of the roll of *bonâ fide* paying students, which in 1857 comprised 214 names, in 1858, 183, and subsequently sank to 13 in 1859, to 43 in 1860, in 1861 rose to 129, in 1862 to 282, and is still on the increase.

94. The new regulations, the settlement of which required much consideration, and occupied a considerable portion of 1861, have been found to work well, and up to this

time have required modifications, but in one or two points of little importance, and the establishment is now assimilated as nearly as circumstances will allow by its organization, curriculum, and studies, to the collegiate establishments in the mother country.

95. In addition to the regular curriculum obligatory on all admitted students, according to the division of studies which they elect to pursue, special instruction in Hindostanee, English, French, German, mathematics, and chemistry, has, during the past year, been imparted to the adult classes, which without interference with ordinary duties tends to render the College a very effective instrument of general education.

96. As satisfactory evidence of the nature of the instruction which is now given to the students, I may mention that a prize scholar from the College, within a month after his arrival in England, became, with some 40 other young men, a candidate for an entrance scholarship at Caius College, Cambridge, and was bracketed second, and favourably mentioned for his proficiency; and that there is every reason to suppose that he would have succeeded in another competition had he chosen to change the college of his predilection, as the gentleman with whom he was bracketed had competed, and obtained subsequently, an entrance scholarship at St. John's College, Cambridge. This I believe is the first instance of a Royal College Pupil having gained distinction at an English College.

Education.—Government Schools.

97. This important subject presents itself under a more favourable aspect than that which it assumed in the remarks on the school statistics of 1861.

98. The long-continued state of impaired health, and finally the death of the late superintendent, had tended much to impede progress, and to retard the carrying out of the only measure which appeared likely to produce a vital improvement in the system, viz., the creation of a better staff of masters, trained to their work under an improved and uniform system of instruction.

99. By the confirmation from home of the gentleman who originally came to Mauritius as organizing master, in the post of Superintendent of Government Schools, to which he had been provisionally appointed, the Government has been able to avail itself of the services of a gentleman fully competent to the work of regeneration, whose general knowledge of the subject, moreover, was strengthened by local experience extending over nearly two years.

100. The scheme proposed, after much deliberation by the Council of Education, comprehended as its principal features the employment of properly trained and certified teachers, graduated in pay according to efficiency; the employment of pupil teachers in lieu of monitors and assistants; the adoption of an uniform system of education, in accordance, as much as practicable, with the most approved European methods; and the establishment of a normal school, for the training of colonial teachers in the theory and practice of elementary instruction.

The new code was brought into operation on the 1st of July.

101. It is gratifying to be able to report that after a fair trial of 12 months, the new system has been proved to be not only practicable, but highly advantageous. And it may be reasonably anticipated that by the end of another year, or less, the teachers who either have not acquired sufficient knowledge, or (what is not uncommon) have been unable to learn the proper method of imparting that knowledge with advantage to others, will have been gradually eliminated, and a nucleus formed for the permanent formation of a staff of regularly and similarly-trained teachers, able to carry out the system in the regular Government schools, and offering unusual facility to the managers of the elementary schools, partially assisted by contributions from the Treasury, for introducing into their establishments a discipline and system analogous to those prevailing in the schools under the absolute control of the Government.

*Schools.—Orphan Asylum.**

* The Report on "The Orphan Asylum" is not printed.

102. The Orphan Asylum at the powder mills, which was the creation of and an object of continual solicitude to the late Governor, Sir W. Stevenson, is progressing very favourably.

103. There were on the rolls at the end of the year 223; of whom 182 were Indians, 33 Africans, and 2 Creoles, being an increase of 21 above the numbers present at the close of the preceding year.

104. The mortality during 1862 amounted to 17 deaths, of which 8 were the result of the epidemic cholera, which raged in the colony during the first half of the year; the deaths in the previous year having amounted to 43.

105. The principal feature of this institution is, that in addition to elementary nstruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic, it affords to all the pupils, male and

MAURITIUS.

female, tuition under practised masters in some trade or occupation, which, on their departure from the Asylum, may enable them by their own industry to earn an honest and honourable livelihood.

106. The trades in which daily instruction is given are as follows:—Carpenters and wheelwrights, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, basket makers, rope makers, tailors, gardeners, washermen, cooks, and domestic servants. The girls are taught needlework.

107. The industrial department turned out inter alia during the year 10 large dining tables with benches, 5 carts for the railway, and 5 for the Surveyor-General, ironwork as well as woodwork, 6,280 rattan earth baskets, a quantity of rope and cord from the aloe fibre. The pupils have also made the whole of the clothes used by the establishment, and cooked all the food consumed; while the younger ones, until able to do better, contribute labour in the garden.

The whole of the washing is likewise done by the inmates of the establishment.

108. The result of four years' experience shows that this institution is a complete success, and that it promises to form a nursery for industry able to supply the colony with skilled labour, which every day becomes more scarce, besides rescuing from ignorance and crime so many young people of both sexes, and converting them into good citizens and useful members of the commonwealth.

109. On the whole, though the proportion of uneducated children is still lamentably great, and the apathy of the parents is as notorious as ever, the educational prospects of the colony may be fairly considered to be improving.

Prisons.

* Not printed.

110. The prison of Port Louis, as will be seen by the accompanying report,* is in as efficient a state as can well be expected from the nature of the buildings. The staff has been improved, and the discipline is enforced with energy; but all idea of adapting it to a reformatory institution must be abandoned, while in its present state, and it will be more advantageous for the public service to remove it altogether to a better and more isolated site, out of the town, in the centre of which it now stands.

111. The sanitary condition of the prison is satisfactory, considering the exceptional cases of cholera in the commencement of the year, of the victims of which epidemic not less than 48 were inmates of the prison.

112. The amount credited to the prison for labour amounted to about 600*l.*, and in addition, 300 men were employed at the public works by the Surveyor-General.

113. The number of prisoners who entered the prison during the year amounted to 9,642, being 1,900 less than in the preceding year, and of these no less than 4,904 were vagrants.

114. The accompanying table contains a comparison of the criminal cases from the years 1858 to 1862 inclusive, which have been so important as to be brought before a jury.

It indicates that the gross number of convictions in the year 1862 was decidedly lower than in any of these previous years, and the number of cases was also somewhat below the average, notwithstanding the progressive increase of the population.

115. The total cases of murder and manslaughter were:—

——	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.
Murder - -	11	8	12	9	7
Manslaughter -	20	12	12	11	14
Total -	31	20	24	20	21

indicating a remarkable uniformity in crimes of this nature during a succession of years.

It is satisfactory, however, to observe that the crime of poisoning, of which there were five instances in 1859, was not repeated in either 1861 or 1862.

116. The circumstance that the return exhibits only one case of perjury in 1862, and none in the previous years, calls for remark, as it is notorious that this offence is committed almost daily among the Indian population. The fact is, that it is a crime very difficult of detection, and still more of proof, to the satisfaction of a jury; because it is only by comparing the evidence alleged to be false with that of witnesses who may be fully believed, that the case can be proved, and opportunities seldom occur in practice of doing this satisfactorily.

117. In other respects the return does not call for any remark, as it merely indicates the fluctuations incident to a comparison of one year with another in a small colony,

where the field is not large enough for obtaining such criminal statistics as would found any important deductions. MAURITIUS.

118. The prisons in the districts are very creditably kept, and do justice to the careful supervision of the prison committees under whose immediate surveillance they are placed; but it must be acknowledged that, with one exception, having been built several years ago, they are not sufficiently large for the required accommodation. In one district, where the defects of the existing gaol were most apparent, an effectual remedy has been applied by the construction of an entirely new building. This work is in progress, and may be expected to be completed during the ensuing year; and the necessity of improvements in every district in this respect is a subject of earnest consideration to the Government.

THE DEPENDENCIES.—SEYCHELLES.

SEYCHELLES.

119. The peculiar position of Seychelles, possessing a fertile soil, a salubrious climate, abundance of water, and surrounded by seas, teeming with fish and turtle, and notwithstanding these advantages unable to meet its expenses, and being in fact a drain on the Treasury of Mauritius, has been most forcibly brought to notice during the past year, by the catastrophe which in October 1862 destroyed a portion of the town of Mahe, occasioned a lamentable loss of life, and reduced the whole community to a state of distress and temporary destitution.

120. The proverbial liberality of the inhabitants of this colony was not at fault on this occasion; private subscriptions of provisions and money flowed in abundance, and relief judiciously distributed by a local committee, alleviated in a short time all actual suffering occasioned by the late storm.

121. It had been determined in Council, just previous to this event, to advance to Seychelles for special public purposes a certain sum of money, to be repaid at some future period; and in part performance of this agreement, a number of prisoners had been despatched to the island for the purpose of assisting in the construction of roads, bridges, and buildings, deemed absolutely necessary by the Civil Commissioner. This accession of strength was of infinite service in clearing away the wreck and restoring the channel of the river, which flowed through Mahe, and when these and other essentially necessary works shall have been accomplished, it will be right to consider in what way the natural advantages of the place can be brought forward, and the apathetic carelessness of the inhabitants stimulated into action.

122. As has already been reported, the boon of an extension of the power of introducing Indian labourers into Seychelles proved to be a dead letter, and has never in one single instance been taken advantage of, though the services of the slaves landed on the island at different times by Her Majesty's cruisers have been readily sought for; this eagerness being possibly induced by the fact of the labour market having been thus brought to their own thresholds at a comparatively trifling expense.

123. The Civil Commissioner, in an elaborate report,* a copy of which is enclosed, has entered with detail into the wants of the community over which he presides, and points at certains measures as likely to ameliorate its condition. These are, 1stly, An establishment of a system of corveé, by which all inhabitants of a certain age will be bound to give labour or a commutation in money for 15 days in every year, on the public roads. 2ndly, The establishment of an hospital and the introduction of a poor relief law. 3rdly, The protection of the turtle. 4thly. The extension to Seychelles of the quarantine law. And, 5thly, The privilege of collecting in Mahe, the custom duties on goods imported from Mauritius. * Not printed

124. The Commissioner invites attention to the fact that parts of the Seychelles are admirably adapted to the cultivation of cotton, which is in fact indigenous to the soil, of a very superior staple, and a fine silky quality, and which in former years was raised in large quantities, and at a most remunerating price, until, (as was the case with the Bahamas,) the cotton produced by slave labour in the Southern States of America drove the Seychelles growers out of the market, by its cheapness and abundance. The Commissioner calculates that there are still more than 3,000 acres of land in the Seychelles suitable for this industry, and that the possibility of obtaining cheap labour, such as that of the liberated Africans, might induce proprietors, under existing circumstances in the United States, again to attempt the cultivation of cotton.

125. All the suggestions of the Commissioner are under consideration, and with reference to some of them, ordinances are in course of preparation, carrying out with some essential modifications, the scheme of labour on the roads proposed, as well as a system of quarantine; and measures are also being taken to adapt the provisions of the Poor Relief Ordinance of Mauritius to Seychelles, and to apply some remedy to the evil attendant on the wanton destruction of the turtle.

SEYCHELLES.

126. The small islands, forming more immediately the dependencies of Mauritius, the rest of the Seychelles Archipelago, the Amirantes, &c., are almost all in the hands of concessionnaires, whose titles are more or less open to objection; and a scheme for bringing all these uncertain and unsatisfactory tenures within the bounds of long leases, with equitable royalties payable to the Colonial Government on produce brought to Mauritius, is under consideration.

127. These islands are mostly devoted to the manufacture of cocoa-nut oil, the consumption of which in Mauritius is very considerable, exceeding 300,000 gallons per annum; and the moderate royalty contemplated by the arrangement above referred to, meets with the entire concurrence of the occupiers of the plantations.

128. It is to be hoped, therefore, that in the course of this year the Government will be prepared to submit a scheme, by which these dependencies will be placed on a satisfactory footing as to tenure, as well as placed in a position to be auxiliary to the general revenue.

129. The erection of a lighthouse at Rodrigues, the utility of which is incontestable, the island being generally sighted by all ships from India to Mauritius, and the coast being exceedingly dangerous, is under consideration; and the locality has been examined with a view of fixing on the most advantageous site for the building, the construction of which it is to be hoped may be decided on in the course of next year.

General Remarks.

130. The position of the colony at the end of 1862, differed materially from that in which it was found in the two preceding years.

131. In former years, the receipts of each year were very much in excess of the expenditure, and a large amount of money had accumulated, which, under the name of Reserve Balances, was laid out in Government stock, and placed to the credit of the colony, the interest from which produced no inconsiderable addition to the revenue of the country.

132. By a late order from Her Majesty's Government, a large amount of these balances, viz., 300,000*l*., has been devoted to the construction of the railroad, in addition to which, debentures to the amount of 200,000*l*. were issued for the purpose of raising funds for the same object. The country having to bear the double burden of a large decrease of revenue by the loss of the dividends on the stock formerly invested in its name, and a considerable increase of expenditure by the necessity of providing means for paying the interest on the debeutures.

133. To meet this exigency, it had already been found expedient to increase the fiscal charges upon certain articles of luxury, and there is no doubt, necessity will arise for a further taxation for a limited period, to provide means for the yearly increasing amount of interest accruing to the debentures, and pending the period when the railroads may be expected to become remunerative,—a period which it would be unwise to calculate on before the latter end of 1864, as regards the Northern line; and as regards the Midland line, at least a year longer.

134. But, although it is quite futile to attempt to deny the fact that the resources of the colony will be heavily taxed for some two or three years, it would be equally unfair not to assume the conviction that these resources are such as to be able with perfect security to bear the strain, and that the credit of the country will remain unshaken.

135. It is satisfactory to see that the colony had already attained a high position in the moneyed world by its punctuality in meeting its engagements; and the very large premium at which the first issue of debentures was eagerly bought up in the Stock Exchange, proves that the credit of the country has not suffered by the large public debt, which the prosecution of this great enterprise has entailed on it.

136. On the whole, therefore, the colony, although requiring to have ts financial matters managed with much circumspection, and with great regard to economy, may be fairly considered as having sufficiently maintained during the preceding year the favourable position which it held at the close of 1861.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FELIX BEDINGFELD,
Colonial Secretary.

July 31, 1863.

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

THE

REPORTS

Made for the Year 1862 *to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies; in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1862.

PART II.

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES;
AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA;
AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND;
EASTERN COLONIES;
MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS AND IONIAN ISLANDS, &c.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1864.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1864.

9127.

SCHEDULE.

PART II.

No. in Series.	Colony.	Page.
	NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.	
1	Canada	4
2	Nova Scotia	17
3	New Brunswick	17
4	Prince Edward Island	20
5	Newfoundland. (Not received.)	
6	Bermuda	24
7	British Columbia. (Not received.)	
	AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.	
8	Sierra Leone	26
9	Gambia	26
10	Gold Coast. (Not received.)	
11	Cape of Good Hope	32
12	Natal	34
13	Lagos	49
14	St. Helena	50
	AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.	
15	New South Wales	64
16	Queensland	89
17	Victoria	105
18	Tasmania. (Not received.)	
19	South Australia	107
20	Western Australia	126
21	New Zealand	129
	EASTERN COLONIES.	
22	Ceylon	137
23	Hong Kong	179
24	Labuan	184
	MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS AND IONIAN ISLANDS.	
25	Gibraltar	186
26	Malta	188
27	Ionian Islands	190
28	Heligoland	192
29	Falkland Islands	192

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

CANADA.

No. 1.

CANADA.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General Viscount MONCK to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 4.)

MY LORD DUKE, Quebec, January 22, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the annual Blue Book of the Province of Canada for the year 1862, and the Reports from the different departments of the Government for the same period.

These reports enter so fully into the various details of the different departments to which they refer, that I do not think anything that I could say would add to or simplify the information which they contain.

I have in my current correspondence kept your Grace informed as to the occurrences which affected the general Government of the Province during the period to which these Reports refer, and I do not, therefore, think it necessary further to allude to them at present.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. (Signed) MONCK.

&c. &c. &c.

EXTRACTS from DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS contained in SESSIONAL PAPERS of 1863.

REPORT of the FINANCE MINISTER of CANADA on the TRADE of the PROVINCE.

To his Excellency the Right Honourable CHARLES STANLEY Viscount MONCK, Governor-General of British North America, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE now the honour to lay before your Excellency the Trade and Navigation Returns for the year 1862.

The total value of the imports for the past year has been	$48,600,633
And the value of imports in 1861 was	43,054,836
Showing an increase of	$5,545,797

Of the total importations in 1862, $23,971,370 were of dutiable goods, against $25,094,748 in 1861, showing a decrease in this class of imports of $1,123,378.

The customs receipts in each year compare as follows :—

In 1861	$4,768,192
In 1862	4,652,748
Showing a decrease of	115,444

Comparing the value of dutiable goods imported during the first half of 1862 with the value of those imported in the first half of 1861, and also comparing the duties collected thereon respectively, we have the following results :—

	Value.	Duty.
1861	$12,911,135	$2,505,570
1862	11,955,459	2,059,826
Decrease	955,676	445,744

A result which may be attributed to the continuance of the civil war in the United States, and more especially to apprehensions excited by the seizure of the "Trent" and the subsequent action of the Imperial Government.

A similar comparison of imports of dutiable goods, and of duties collected during the last half of the same years, shows a small decline in value; but owing to the change in the tariff the customs revenue shows an important increase. In the last half of

	Value.	Duty.
1861	$12,175,700	$2,262,623
1862	12,020,911	2,592,923
Decrease	$ 154,789	
Increase		$ 330,300

The increased value of imports in 1862 is, therefore, altogether due to the importation of free goods, of which the value in that year was - - - - - $ 24,624,263
While in 1861 the value was - - - - - - 17,960,088

Showing an increase of - - - - - - - $ 6,664,175

Of this increase $2,130,054 is due to imports of military and naval stores and clothing, $679,105 to unmanufactured tobacco, and $2,886,571 to the increased importation of cereals.

The increased values of the free goods on the one hand, and the reduced values of the dutiable goods on the other, may be in some degree ascribed to the fact that during the latter half of the year considerable deductions were authorized from American invoices subject to duty, whilst the free goods were entered and officially returned at the invoice values, without deduction.

With respect to the excise it will appear by the returns that the revenue from that source has largely increased. The duty collected on spirits and malt liquors amounted in

1862 to - - - - - - - - - $ 480,848
And in 1861 to - - - - - - - - 285,947

Showing an increase in 1862 of - - - - - - $ 194,901

This, as well as the increased revenue obtained from customs in the last half of the year, show the result of the measures adopted during the last session of Parliament.

The exports in 1862 fall short of those of 1861 by $3,018,070, the amounts for each of those years standing respectively as $33,596,125 and $36,614,195. Of this decrease the falling off in the exports of flour represents $770,581, and of wheat $2,119,519, while the total decrease in the exports of agricultural products amounts to $3,195,474. This decrease, with the increased imports of cereals previously referred to, gives some guide to the deficiency of our harvest in 1862 as compared with the harvest of 1861.

The movement of property on the provincial canals shows a steady increase. On the Welland Canal the movement

	Tons.	
In 1859 was, of Property - - - - - -	709,611	
„ „ Vessels - - - - - -	856,918	
		1,566,529
In 1860, of Property - - - - - -	944,084	
„ Vessels - - - - - -	1,238,509	
		2,182,593
In 1861, of Property - - - - - -	1,020,483	
„ Vessels - - - - - -	1,327,672	
		2,348,155
In 1862, of Property - - - - - -	1,243,774	
„ Vessels - - - - - -	1,476,842	
		2,720,616

And on the St. Lawrence Canals the movement was as follows:—

In 1859, of Property - - - - - -	631,769	
„ Vessels - - - - - -	765,636	
		1,397,405
In 1860, of Property - - - - - -	733,596	
„ Vessels - - - - - -	824,465	
		1,558,061
In 1861, of Property - - - - - -	886,908	
„ Vessels - - - - - -	1,009,469	
		1,896,377
In 1862, of Property - - - - - -	964,394	
„ Vessels - - - - - -	1,049,230	
		2,013,624

The movement on the Welland Canal has therefore increased in 1861 by 7½ per cent. over 1860, and in 1862 by 15 per cent. over 1861; whilst on the St. Lawrence Canals the movement of tonnage has increased in 1861 by 22 per cent. over 1860, and in 1862 by 6 per cent. over 1861.

In this connexion I propose to consider the effect which the removal of the tolls from the St. Lawrence Canals and the reduction of those on the Welland has had on the movement of property through those works.

That the movement of property by the St. Lawrence route has been greatly augmented during the past three years is sufficiently apparent from the figures above given, and we may congratulate the country thereon; but that this increase has been due to the remission of the tolls is not to be assumed without taking into account other circumstances which have mainly influenced the direction of trade.

First among these circumstances may be stated the greatly increased production of cereals in the Western States, and the figures presently introduced will show that in proportion to that increase, and to the whole volume of agricultural produce moved from Lakes Erie and Michigan to tide-water, we have not obtained so large a traffic since the removal of the tolls as we obtained prior to the adoption of that policy.

CANADA.

The following statement shows the quantity of grain sent eastward from the Lake regions, including Western Canada, during the last seven years :

	Flour— Barrels.	Wheat— Bushels.	Corn— Bushels.	Other Grain— Bushels.	Total reduced to Bushels.
1856 - - -	3,865,442	19,505,358	14,282,632	4,592,569	57,707,769
1857 - - -	3,397,954	16,763,285	8,779,832	2,256,944	44,789,851
1858 - - -	4,499,613	21,843,850	10,495,554	5,035,097	59,872,566
1859 - - -	3,760,274	16,865,708	4,423,006	4,264,051	44,354,225
1860 - - -	4,106,057	32,334,391	18,075,778	7,712,032	78,652,486
1861 - - -	6,533,869	46,384,144	29,524,628	10,686,115	119,264,233
1862 - - -	8,359,910	50,699,130	32,985,923	10,844,939	136,329,542

The statement on the next page shows the proportion of wheat and flour which has passed from the Western States to tide-water by the St. Lawrence and Erie Canals respectively during the same period.

	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.
	Reduced to Bush. Wheat.	Reduced to Bush. Wheat.	Reduced to Bush. Wheat.	Reduced to Bush. Wheat.	Reduced to Bush. Wheat.	Reduced to Bush. Wheat.	Reduced to Bush. Wheat.
Movement of American Breadstuff downward through the St. Lawrence Canals -	1,209,612	1,930,280	1,876,933	1,988,759	1,846,462	3,103,153	5,320,054
Movement through the Erie Canal -	15,342,833	10,601,532	13,757,283	10,371,966	23,912,000	34,427,800	39,240,131
Total movement to tide-water -	16,553,445	12,531,812	15,634,216	12,360,725	25,758,462	37,530,953	44,560,185
Per-centage passed through the St. Lawrence Canals - - - -	7·3%	15·4%	12·01%	16·08%	7·16%	8·26%	11·4%

NOTE.—The above statement is computed by adding to the importations (from United States Ports) at Kingston the quantities sent down the St. Lawrence Canals from the United States to Canadian Ports ; and it is assumed that all the imports at Kingston were sent down the St. Lawrence Canals.

The movement on the Erie Canal during the first six years is taken from the Canal Auditor's Reports.

The movement through the Erie Canal in 1862 is taken from "Hunt's Merchant's Magazine."

This statement relates only to wheat and flour.

Hence it appears that of the whole quantity of Western wheat and flour which was transported to tide-water through the New York and Canadian Canals during the past seven seven years we obtained for the St. Lawrence route in

1856	-	7·3 per cent.
1857	-	15·4 „
1858	-	12·01 „
1859	-	16·08 „
1860	-	7·16 „
1861	-	8·26 „
1862	-	11·4 „

These are the principal commodities which have heretofore passed through the St. Lawrence Canals. If we include with them the Indian corn, which figures so largely in the Welland and Erie Canal returns, the per-centage will become still less favourable to us, and the proportions will be still further reduced by bringing into the comparison the cereal products of the Western States which are carried to tide-water by the several railways converging on the Atlantic Ports.

Among the circumstances which have influenced the direction of trade may also be reckoned the improved facilities now available at Kingston and Montreal for the transhipment of grain. These facilities have been created within the past four years, and there is little doubt but the advantages they afford have a money value to shipowners greater than the tolls now imposed.

It is also known that the owners of western produce have been induced to direct their property to Canadian ports, by considerations connected with the derangement of the currency of the United States.

While we have failed to obtain so large a proportion of the western trade since the removal of the tolls as we obtained in 1859 and in preceding years, the tolls levied on property passing through that canal, which is the chief competitor with the St. Lawrence route, have been materially increased, as the following comparison of tolls on the three principal articles will show :—

	1860 and previous Years. Toll per 1,000 lbs. per Mile.	1862. Toll per 1,000 lbs. per Mile.
On Corn - - - -	2 Mills.	2½ Mills.
„ Flour - - - -	2 do.	3 do.
„ Wheat - - -	2 do.	3 do.

This increase is equivalent to an advance of 70 cents per ton on wheat and flour from Buffalo to tide-water, and of 40 cents. per ton from Oswego to tide-water; whilst the advance on corn is equivalent to 35 cents per ton from Buffalo, and to 20 cents per ton from Oswego.

The rates of freight have also increased by the Erie Canal, and they have increased in a still greater ratio by the St. Lawrence. During the four years next preceding 1859 the average freight for flour from Lake Ontario ports to Montreal was $1·84½ per ton.

In 1860, the year in which the tolls were removed from the St. Lawrence Canals, the rate of freight was - - - - - - - - - $2·11½ per ton.
In 1861 it was - - - - - - - - - 2·56½ „
In 1862 it was - - - - - - - - - 2·61 „

So that the increase over the average of the four years preceding 1859 has been

In 1860 = 72 cents per ton.
In 1861 = 72 cents „
And in 1862 = 81 cents „

If we add to these figures the tolls remitted, we find that the forwarders received over the average rates which they obtained in the four years above alluded to—

In 1860 = 49 cents per ton.
In 1861 = 94 cents „
In 1862 = 1·03 cents „

together with the tolls on the tonnage of his shipping.

Comparing in a similar manner the rates of freight obtained for carrying wheat, we have a still more striking example of the advanced rates which the forwarders have been able to exact.

The average freight rates for wheat from Lake Ontario ports to Montreal in 1855, '6, '7, and '8, was $1·81 per ton:—

In 1860 the average rate was - $2·80 per ton.
In 1861 it was - - - 2·72 „
And in 1862 it was - - - 2·71 „

Thus the advance over the average rate during the four years first named was—

In 1860 - - - $1·21
In 1861 - - - 1·13
And in 1862 - - - 1·13

Adding the tolls relinquished by the Province it will be seen that the advance obtained by the forwarder has been—

In 1860 - - - 1·43
And in 1861 and '2 - - - 1·35 per ton.

Together with the tolls due to the tonnage of his vessels.

Whatever else may be urged in favour of free canals, it certainly cannot be said that the policy of 1860 has been productive of benefit, either to the producer or consumer of Western breadstuffs; and from the advance which has taken place in the freights by the St. Lawrence route, as well as in both tolls and freight, by the competing route to tide-water at Albany, it is abundantly manifest that the forwarder can pay a moderate toll without unduly trenching upon his profits.

It can be shown from reliable data that in so far as the actual cost of transport (including therein the canal tolls recently imposed) is concerned, Western produce can be carried to tide-water much cheaper by the St. Lawrence than by any competing route; and we must trace our failure to obtain for our canals a greater proportion of the Western trade to other causes than the charges heretofore imposed for the use of those works. I am persuaded that the chief cause of that failure lies in the absence of sufficient competition among forwarders engaged in the St. Lawrence trade; in the financial relations between shippers engaged in the Western trade and the capitalists of New York; and finally and chiefly in the lower rates of ocean freights from New York to Europe, occasioned by the greater competition at that port than is to be found at Quebec or Montreal.

It is gratifying to know that the Canadian forwarder has been able to obtain the advanced rates above quoted, but we cannot find therein a justification of that policy which, in addition to other advantages, would give him the free use of costly works which complete the grandest system of inland navigation in the world, and have not been constructed without imposing heavy burthens on the country.

If it could be shown that the tolls remitted had gone in mitigation of the comparatively high rate of ocean freight to which our trade is subject, we might find in that fact some reasons for making our canals absolutely free. But it has been shown that this has not been the result. The tolls have gone to enhance the profits of the forwarder, whose freight tariff has been regulated, not by the cost of doing his work, but by the competition with which he has had to contend.

There is but one course open for securing that quota of the Western trade which the advantages of the St. Lawrence route gives us reason to anticipate. If we can give to the owners of the largest vessels now profitably engaged in the trade of Lake Michigan the option of trading to Kingston and the St. Lawrence or to Buffalo, as may be found most profitable, we shall have thrown down the barrier which now forces the main current of trade into the Erie Canal. We shall have more than balanced the greater insurance and freights charged from our sea ports to Europe over the corresponding charges from New York, and we may thereafter expect Quebec and Montreal to take rank amongst the greatest grain marts of this continent.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. P. HOWLAND,
Minister of Finance.

Quebec, May 12, 1862.

CANADA.

REPORT of the MINISTER of FINANCE of CANADA.

To his Excellency the Right Honourable Charles Stanley Viscount Monck, Governor-General of British North America, &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

THE undersigned has the honour to submit to your Excellency the public accounts of the Province for the year 1862.

The total expenditure of the year, including payments on account of redemption of public debt, amounted to			$11,395,923
The total receipts			10,629,204
Showing an excess of payments over gross receipts			766,719
This difference has been met by changes in the cash balances and bankers' accounts.			
From the gross expenditure			11,395,923
Deduct the amount of debentures redeemed	$279,830		
And debentures charged as redeemed in 1861, but paid in 1862	144,412		
			424,242
Making the net expenditure			$10,971,681
On the other side,			
Deducting the debentures issued	$2,220,760		
And investments realized	201,298		
	$2,422,058		
The net receipts are reduced to			8,207,145
Exhibiting as the actual deficiency			$2,764,536

To bring out this result, the undersigned has proceeded upon a principle different from that which has ordinarily governed the official statement of the financial position of the province at the close of each year. Adopting the accounts for 1861 as an example, it may be remarked, that had the balance sheet for that year been constructed on the basis accepted by the undersigned, it would have stood as follows :—

Total expenditure			$14,742,834
Less debentures redeemed	2,738,872		
And less sum paid on account of redemption for previous year	179,945		
		$2,918,817	
			$11,824,017
Total receipts		$12,655,581	
Less debentnres issued and stock subscribed	2,756,305		
Less amount unpaid on account of debentures redeemed	145,521		
Investments realized	901,049		
		3,802,876	
			8,852,705
Actual deficiency in 1861			$2,971,311

It will be seen that the undersigned has proceeded on the assumption that from one source or another the province should year after year meet its expenditure, whatever that is; the only allowable exceptions being expenditure incurred in the construction of important public works, permanent and it may be remunerative in their character, and payments on account of engagements already contracted, and standing in the shape of actual debt. He has consequently abstained from making several deductions which it has been usual to make in the statement of the yearly deficiency. He has preferred to state it as it really is, that the province may understand the full extent of the demand upon its resources which it may properly be called to meet. Thus, from the gross expenditure and receipts he has taken the redemption of debt and the issue of debentures, and also such receipts and repayments as were on account of redemption, which, had they come into the same year, would not have appeared at all. He has further deducted investments realized, which may be generally characterized as in fact equivalent only to a transfer from one banking account to another. The result he calls the net expenditure and the net receipts, the difference between which forms the actual deficit of the year, which we must provide for either by borrrowing or by increasing the revenue. The borrowing process has unfortunately been employed too generally and too long, encouraging unnecesary expenditure, and relieving the community from the burdens which it should be made to bear as the consequence of its own acts. The time has come when another method must of necessity be pursued. Instead of taxing our credit, and so transferring burdens from ourselves to posterity, it is desirable that we should now tax our available resources to an extent indicated by the deficiency; and the first step towards the change is to present the true result of the year's financial transactions, that the entire deficiency may be known.

Referring to the items composing the principal sources from which the ordinary income of the Province is derived, the undersigned may remark, that although the receipts from customs' duties have not quite realized the expectations he entertained in May last, it is satisfactory to know that the changes then made in the tariff led to a large increase in the revenue during the latter half of

the year. In the first half there was a deficiency as compared with the receipts in the corresponding period of 1861 amounting to $439,724, whilst the increase in the second half amounted to $317,345, showing a falling off in the receipts of the year of only $122,379. The excise revenue exhibits an increase on the year of $155,648. The receipts of the first six months amounting to $188,604, or an increase of $39,112, and during the second six months to $311,708, or an increase of $116,476; the latter increase was not proportionate to the augmentation of duties under the legislation of the last session; a circumstance which may be explained by reference to the fact that the intention to levy higher duties was known considerably in advance of the legislative action, and that the manufacturers interested were, therefore, stimulated to produce largely prior to the imposition of the new duties. The item of ocean postage exhibits a diminution which may seem remarkable, without a word in explanation. The receipts from this source were only $17,274 in 1862; a decrease which is mainly attributable to the nonpayment by the government of the United States of the sums due to the province for postal services rendered within the year. The difference should, perhaps, be set down as a payment deferred rather than an actual falling off. Apart from this item, the Post Office receipts advanced from $357,015 to $391,443, being an increase of $34,427. Public works, again, yielded $305,658, which, as compared with the receipts in 1861, shows an increase of $37,573; the sums stated being exclusive of tolls refunded, amounting in 1862 to $78,046. The territorial revenue declined from $678,922 in 1861 to $629,886 in 1862.

Turning to the expenditure side of the account, the inability of Government to effect sudden and very large reductions becomes apparent. Over the greater proportion of the expenditure, Ministers exercise little or no control. Speaking roundly, more than one half of the whole is in fulfilment of obligations already incurred. Other large amounts are expended in pursuance of engagements which cannot be summarily terminated. And yet another large expenditure takes place under annual grants of the Legislature, to which the Government of the day simply gives effect. Time and the substitution of a more wholesome system of financial management are required to bring about marked reductions in these branches of the expenditure.

What may justly be classed as administrative expenses amounted in 1862 to $2,079,278, to which perhaps should be added $1,326,732, expended under the head of collections. The charges against civil government advanced from $437,285 in 1861 to $486,620 in 1862. But the increase is susceptible of ready explanation. The operation of the Civil Service Act entailed an increase in the shape of arrears and additions to salaries exceeding $21,000; very large amounts were paid at the commencemeut of the year for contingencies; and there are charges amounting to $10,943, which formerly appeared under other heads. The penitentiary and prison expenses show an increase from $148,046 to $155,612; but of the latter sum, about $10,000 are chargeable to the Reformatory at Penetanguishene, which, though established in 1861, did not come into full operation until 1862. Again, with regard to emigration and quarantine, it may be stated that items amounting altogether to $5,227 relate to the European agencies, which, though paid in 1862, really belonged to 1861.

Under all the heads of expenditure which are subject to the control of the administration, the undersigned ventures to promise that the accounts of the year on which we have entered will show very gratifying changes. Many considerable reductions, effected near the close of 1862, are not visible in the expenditure as it now appears. Generally, it may be said, the measures of retrenchment which have been adopted had not time to develope their effects before the expiration of 1862. Not a few of them, indeed, are incomplete, being but parts of a system of economy the complete fruits of which are dependent upon investigations and arrangements yet in progress.

Not the least important of the changes which the undersigned hopes to see brought about in connexion with the reduction of administrative expenses is one that will give to Parliament the power of limiting the amounts expended by the heads of the several departments. At present these expenditures may be increased indefinitely, at the will of a Minister or a Government; for they are provided for out of the current revenues, which come into the Provincial Treasury only after deductions to which there is no recognized limit. The true system appears to be one that will bring into the Treasury the whole of the receipts, from whatsoever source derived, and that will confer upon Parliament the power, and impose upon it the duty, of determining specifically the sums that shall be expended under departmental authorization and supervision.

Reverting to the statement of the net expenditure and income, it is the duty of the undersigned to explain that the actual deficiency of the year was met as follows:—

Debentures issued - - - -	$1,796,517
Investments realized - - - -	201,299
Changes in cash and bankers' balances - -	766,719
	$2,764,535

The amount which is shown to be due the London agents of the Province ($2,254,258) was increased to the extent of $876,000 by the payment on their part in 1862 of that amount, which was borrowed in 1861 from the City Bank of London.

Of the debentures issued, the sum of $773,900 was in exchequer bills, negotiated in the Province; and $1,446,860 were sterling debentures, issued in England.

The addition to the funded debt during the year amounted to $1,940,929, and to the net debt, after deducting sinking fund, to $1,773,954, The former now amounts to $67,567,407, and the net debt, after the deduction indicated, to $59,946,973.

The report of the Board of Audit shows that from 1856 to 1862 inclusive the increase in the funded debt was $21,712,190. Within the same term the increase to the net funded debt was $16,703,810, being an average yearly increase to the latter of $2,387,258. It will be seen, there-

CANADA.

fore, that the addition to the funded debt in 1862 was much less (viz. $1,773,954) than the average yearly addition during the period over which the comparison extends.

The continuance of the civil war in the United States, with which Canada has such intimate and extended commercial relations, has necessarily operated prejudicially upon our finances during the year to which this report refers. A diminished demand for our staple products has produced a corresponding check upon the purchasing power of our people, and a corresponding loss to the principal sources of our revenue. These tendencies have been widened and strengthened by the derangement in the currency of our neighbours, creating, as it has done, irregularity and uncertainty in the various branches of industry and commerce, and bringing certain of them within very narrow compass. So long as these disturbing influences exist, we cannot anticipate an increase of our revenues to the extent which, under more auspicious circumstances, we might confidently expect.

Notwithstanding these unfavourable causes, however, the undersigned sees nothing in the general monetary and business position of the Province to warrant misgivings or despondency as to its future. The trade of the year has been contracted; but that is all. No crisis has occurred to jeopardise its progress. Although limited, it has been conducted on a sound basis, and is now in a healthy condition. The undersigned feels no apprehension, therefore, with regard to the willingness or the power of the Province to sustain just and well-considered measures for preserving public credit unimpaired, and for adjusting its income and expenditure on the only basis which is compatible with economy in administration and lasting prosperity in public affairs.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

WM. P. HOWLAND,
Minister of Finance.

Quebec, April 6, 1863.

EXTRACT FROM REPORT of the COMMISSIONER of PUBLIC WORKS for the Year 1862.

Inland Navigation.

In the possession of the River St. Lawrence, flowing for more than 600 miles entirely within their own border, the people of Canada have an invaluable inheritance well worthy of their provident care and attention, and of the large public expenditure heretofore so liberally bestowed upon its improvement.

The clear waters of this great river drain an extent of country larger than France, a country which, for the salubrity of its climate and the fertility of its soil, has been classed amongst some of the most favoured portions of the world. The great inland lakes, of which this river forms the natural outlet to the ocean, alone exceed in extent the area of Great Britain, and comprehend more than half the fresh water of the globe.

The coast line of these great lakes and of the River St. Lawrence, which by the enterprise of the people of this Province has been opened to the navigation of vessels of 400 tons burden, at a cost of upwards of 14,000,000 of dollars, measures 5,600 miles in extent, about one half of which is American, fronting upon eight of the Northern States of the Union, and the other half Canadian territory.

It was naturally expected that upon the opening of this channel to the ocean for so vast an extent of inland navigation, by means of the Welland and St. Lawrence Canals, the geographical position and commercial advantages of the route would be so great as to draw through it the Western trade, and that the tolls to be collected on this trade would not only pay the interest upon the cost of the improvements, but also afford a permanent and legitimate source of revenue to the Province, and that as trade increased the large amount of these tolls would admit of a gradual and corresponding reduction in the customs duties, thereby promoting the general interests of commerce and the material welfare and prosperity of the country.

In the early settlement of the Province, and indeed until the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, the trade of the country bordering upon the river and the upper lakes found its way to the sea by Montreal and Quebec. But upon the opening of that canal the products of the West were at once diverted to the other side of the boundary line, and taken to New York; and, notwithstanding the noble efforts which have since been made by Canada to regain a fair share of this trade, by the construction of canals of more than double the tonnage capacity of the Erie Canal, and by the formation of a more direct and cheaper channel of inland navigation, still, such has been the commanding influence of that great commercial metropolis in drawing trade to itself, and in keeping down the price of ocean transport, that these efforts, though not fruitless, have not been so successful as at first anticipated.

A vast stream of traffic has been diverted from the St. Lawrence, and continues to flow through the Erie Canal, with augmented volume, notwithstanding the railway competition it had to encounter in later years. In 1861 the bulk of property transported both ways upon it amounted to upwards of 4½ millions of tons, of the value of 130,000,000 of dollars, and yielding to the state in tolls a revenue of nearly 4,000,000 dollars.

The St. Lawrence route, on the other hand, was not fully opened until 1847, and the returns during a series of years show that, with considerable fluctuations and reactions, the traffic has gradually increased, though not in so marked a degree as might reasonably have been expected. The bulk of property transported both ways through these canals amounted in 1861 to 1,020,483 tons through the Welland, and 886,908 tons through the St. Lawrence; and the revenue which would have been derived that year from this traffic had the usual tolls of former years been imposed would have amounted to $392,289; scarcely more than a tithe of that collected the same year upon the Erie Canal.

Such, by way of comparison, have been the results so far of the two rival routes for the Western trade.

The vast importance of this trade is shown, not only by its present volume, but by the fact of its rapid increase from year to year, as fully made known by the investigations instituted under the authority of the Commissioners of this department in 1840. Taking a period of 10 years on the Erie Canal, and of three years on the Welland Canal, previous to 1849, before railways came into competition, it was found that the actual tonnage of property which passed through these routes from the West increased at the average rate of 20 per cent. per annum. (See the Commissioners' Report for 1849.)

Upon this ratio certain estimates for the future were ventured upon; but the introduction of railways at first, and the taking off of the tolls more recently, and still later the closing of the Mississippi, have proved the impossibility of making any reliable calculations in reference to this trade, when extended over so long a period.

With a view of regaining the Western trade, the Provincial Government, by an order in Council dated 28th May 1860, but taking effect the 19th of the same month, abolished the tolls on the Provincial Canals, under certain regulations, "in furtherance of the views and policy expressed upon that "subject during the recent session of the Provincial Parliament." The conditions of these regulations were, that vessels passing through the Welland Canal should continue to pay tolls according to existing tariffs, but that 90 per cent. of the tolls so paid should be refunded whenever such vessel entered the St. Lawrence Canals, or reported inwards at any Canadian Port on Lake Ontario or on the River St. Lawrence; and, vice versâ, vessels and their cargoes coming up through the St. Lawrence Canals, or hailing from any Canadian Port, and passing upwards through the Welland Canal, paid only 10 per cent. of the toll established on that canal. The St. Lawrence Canals, however, were made unconditionally free from tolls.

This measure was looked upon at the time as conferring a great boon upon the trade, and it was considered that this generous policy would have the effect of diverting through Canada a much larger share of the products of the West; while the incidental advantages to be derived from the securing of this trade, and the increase of revenue from customs duties, would more than compensate for the loss of revenue from tolls, which was then estimated at from $\$110{,}000$ to $\$115{,}000$ at the outside. (See Mirror of Parliament, 11th May 1860.)

This expedient has now been tried for three years; a period of sufficient length, it might be supposed, to warrant an examination into its effect. Has it in reality increased the trade of the St. Lawrence in any material degree?

In proceeding to the consideration of this great and vitally important question, it is necessary, in the first place, to advert to the tariff of tolls heretofore established on the provincial canals; and in doing so it may be well to show from official returns what is the actual cost to the Province of passing a vessel through these canals. Assuming the trade of 1861 for a basis of calculation, it is found by allowing interest at six per cent. on the amount expended in their construction, and adding the outlay for repairs and management for that year, that it has cost $\$72{\cdot}80$ to pass a vessel through the Welland and $\$45{\cdot}06$ through the St. Lawrence Canals, and if she passed through both the cost was $\$117{\cdot}86$. If no tolls are collected, this expense is borne by the people of this Province.

Otherwise, if the cost is calculated on the tonnage of property which passed through the canals that year, it will amount to 48 cents per ton on the Welland and 56 cents per ton on the St. Lawrence Canals, and $\$1{\cdot}04$ per ton for both.

In order to meet this expense, the tolls established for purposes of revenue in 1850 upon the principal articles of commerce were at the rate of 60 cents per ton on the Welland and $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents on the St. Lawrence Canals; but these rates were afterwards reduced, as shown by the table at page 9, until in 1859 they stood at 20 cents per ton on the Welland and 22 cents per ton on the St. Lawrence Canals.

The tariff was regulated by the Government from time to time upon the reports of the Commissioners of this department.

Before submitting these Reports, it was usual to consult the parties directly concerned in the trade, who were considered best qualified to advise concerning its interests.

In this way the tariffs have been several times reduced, until they were ultimately fixed at so low a rate as to afford no real ground for complaint. They certainly could not be nor were they complained of as a burden upon the trade.

Taking the great staple articles of export, wheat and flour, it may be remarked that the toll in 1859 upon a bushel of wheat was only $\frac{6}{10}$ of a cent, and upon a barrel of flour only $2{\cdot}16$ cents through the Welland Canal, and $0{\cdot}66$ cents per bushel and $2{\cdot}376$ cents per barrel on the St. Lawrence canals. These rates collectively are about one quarter of the present established rates on the Erie Canal; in point of fact they were too light to influence the current of trade one way or the other.

In proof of this it is only necessary to look at the evidence of the three years' experience during which these tolls have been abolished on the provincial canals, while at the same time the former rates on the Erie Canal have been continued or raised.

Leaving out of view the business done by the railways, and confining the attention to the great rival water communications between the Lake Erie and tide-water, but bearing in mind what has already been stated, that the ratio of increase of the Western trade as measured by the traffic on both routes up to the year 1850, before railway competition began to affect it, was 20 per cent. per annum, it may now be seen what the actual progress has been since that period upon each of these rival routes. The following comparative statement, made up from official returns, gives the total amount of all kinds of property which has passed through the Erie, the Welland, and the St. Lawrence

CANADA.

canals every year for a period of 13 years, from 1850 to 1862 inclusive, the gross revenue collected, and the average tariff of tolls established on each canal each year during this period.

Years.	Erie Canal.		The St. Lawrence Route.				Total Tolls by St. Lawrence Route.	Average Tariff of Tolls in each Year.			
			Welland Canal.		St. Lawrence Canals.			Erie Canal.		Welland Canal.	St. Lawrence Canals.
	Tons.	Tolls.	Tons.	Tolls.	Tons.	Tolls.		Up.	Down.	Up and Down.	Up and Down.
		$		$		$	$	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
1850 - -	3,076,617	3,273,899	399,600	151,704	288,103	81,872	233,576	4 80	2 92	0 60	0 37½
1851 - -	3,582,733	3,329,727	691,628	201,841	450,401	91,252	293,093	4 40	2 19	0 45	0 37½
1852 - -	3,863,441	3,118,244	743,060	233,094	492,575	88,077	321,171	2 92	2 19	0 45	0 37½
1853 - -	4,247,852	3,204,718	905,516	269,916	561,601	102,411	372,327	2 92	2 19	0 45	0 30
1854 - -	4,165,862	2,773,566	767,210	208,304	639,000	110,110	318,414	2 92	2 19	0 45	0 30
1855 - -	4,022,617	2,805,077	849,333	223,747	541,254	74,493	298,240	2 92	2 19	0 45	0 30
1856 - -	4,116,082	2,748,203	976,556	272,050	634,536	85,535	357,585	2 92	2 19	0 45	0 30
1857 - -	3,344,061	2,045,641	901,072	239,603	593,652	71,468	311,071	2 92	2 19	0 45	0 30
1858 - -	3,665,192	2,110,754	855,112	222,377	605,558	104,273	326,650	1 46	1 46	0 30	0 30
1859 - -	3,781,684	1,723,945	709,611	139,443	911,768	72,906	212,348	0 70	1 41	0 20	0 22
1860 - -	4,650,214	3,009,597	944,084	194,673	733,596	90,758	285,438*	1 40	1 41	0 02	—
1861 - -	4,507,635	3,908,785	1,020,483	241,768	886,908	151,061	352,829*	1 40	1 76	0 02	—
1862 - -	5,598,785	5,188,943	1,152,082	292,694	756,870	146,954	439,648*	1 40	1 70	0 02	—

* These are the amounts, including water rents, fines, &c., that would have been realized if tolls had been collected, as in 1859. The amount refunded or free by Order in Council, 28th May 1860, on all the provincial canals, was—

For 1860 - - -	$127,340·63
1861 - - -	233,863·27
1862 - - -	284,841·08
Total - -	$646,044·98

It is evident from a mere inspection of this table that none of these canals have, since 1850, preserved their former rates of increase up to that time. It is considered that the fluctuations in these returns must, in a great measure, be attributed to the effect of railway competition.

Taking first the decade from 1850 to 1859 inclusive, during which tolls were imposed on both lines, though the same policy of making periodical reductions in the tariff characterized both, it may be observed in regard to—

1. The Erie Canal.

The maximum of tonnage was reached on this canal in 1853, *i. e.*, 4,247,852 tons, while the maximum of tolls received was reached in 1851, $3,329,727. The tariff of tolls was lowest in 1859, and yet the trade that year had fallen off to 3,784,684 tons, and $1,723,945 tolls; showing conclusively that the reduction of the tariff did not augment the traffic on the canal.

2. The Welland Canal.

The maximum of both tonnage and tolls was reached in 1856, 976,556 tons, and $272,050 tolls. The tariff on this canal was also lowest in 1859, and still the trade that year had fallen off to 709,611 tons, and $139,443 tolls.

3. The St. Lawrence Canals.

The maximum of tonnage was reached when the tariff was lowest, in 1859, *i. e.*, 911,768 tons; but the maximum of tolls was, in 1854, $110,110.

From other official returns showing the course of trade through the provincial canals, it will be seen that in this period of ten years the purely American portion of it (*i.e.* "from American to American ports") which passed through the Welland Canal averaged 51 per cent. of the whole, and the purely Canadian, through the St. Lawrence Canals ("from Canadian to Canadian ports"), was 96 per cent. of the gross tonnage.

Taking next the three years since 1859 in which tolls have been abolished on the provincial canals, while they have been doubled on the up freight of the Erie Canal in 1860, and increased 25 per cent. on the down freight in 1861, the most remarkable increase is found in the business of that canal which persists in collecting tolls. In 1862 it had reached the enormous amount of 5,598,785 tons, and $5,188,943 tolls; showing an increase of 32 per cent. on tonnage, and 56 per cent. on tolls, over the maximum of the former period.

On the other hand, the business on the provincial canals in 1862 amounted only to 1,152,082 tons on the Welland Canal, and 756,870 tons on the St. Lawrence Canals; showing an increase of only 18 per cent. of tonnage on the Welland, and a falling off of 17 per cent. on the St. Lawrence Canals, from the maximum of the former period. In these three years the official returns show that the American portion of the trade through the Welland, to and from Oswego and Ogdensburg, had increased to 58 per cent. of the gross tonnage, while the Canadian, through the St. Lawrence, remained at 91 per cent. of the gross tonnage on the canal,—the same as the average of the previous ten years.

In view of these statements it cannot be assumed that the abolition of the tolls on the provincial canals has diverted any business from the Erie Canal. On the contrary, it has continued to increase on that canal in a very remarkable manner, notwithstanding the very opposite policy pursued in its management; while, on the other hand, the business on the provincial canals in the third year of trial has not only failed to reach the same proportional increase, but has actually fallen off on the St. Lawrence, where, from the trade being more especially Canadian, a different result should have been produced, if exemption from tolls could have any influence in diverting the American trade into the same channel.

In the attempt to divert trade by reducing tolls we have the experience on the Erie Canal, preceding that of our own by about ten years. The result of this attempt is made known in the annual report of the Auditor of the Canal Department of the State of New York to the Legislature of that State, for the year 1861. In this report he says: "The reduction which took effect upon the "business of 1846 was the result of an arrangement between the authorities of this state, "Pennsylvania, and Ohio, after the completion of the canals in those states. The bonus paid in "1851 for the competition in the canal trade, which has since been actively and successfully carried "on, not for the benefit of trade within our own state, not to promote or develope a single interest "within our borders, or to alleviate the burthens of our people, and the consequent effort in 1852, "to retain trade by a further reduction of tolls, are remarkable exhibitions of a mistaken policy, and "of unwise and inconsiderate legislation." * * * "In another portion of the report "the Auditor will show by facts and figures that although the state has lost revenue by the "reduction in rates, it has not retained or secured a ton of traffic to the canal in consequence of "that reduction."

It is respectfully submitted whether these facts and statements do not show that the course of the internal trade is wholly uninfluenced by the imposition of tolls, so long as they are confined within the limits which have been charged on either of these routes for the last ten years; and, if this be admitted, whether it is not governed by other general laws, the same laws, in fact, as regulate both the internal and external trade; those of production and consumption, or of supply and demand.

If, then, it has been found impossible by this means to force the Western trade into a channel leading only to a second-rate market on this continent, where it is met by ocean freights which at once neutralize the superior advantages of our inland transport, it would appear to be a matter for consideration whether, in the present state of the public finances, it is expedient any longer to tax the Province for the benefit of this trade; or whether that which naturally seeks this channel, and must continue to increase with the growth and population of the country, should not be rendered immediately productive by the re-imposition of tolls.

The revenue which would be derived from the re-imposition of tolls would suffice in the course of a few years to make some of the important improvements in the navigation which have been in contemplation for many years past, and have only been postponed from financial considerations. Amongst the most essential of these contemplated improvements is the enlargement of the locks and the deepening of the channel of the St. Lawrence Canals.

In the general report of the Commissioner of this department for 1861, much pains was taken to furnish a correct and detailed description of the several provincial canals, showing their condition, dimensions, capacity, and present requirements; and with respect to the main channel of communication between the great lakes and the Atlantic, attention was drawn pointedly to the fact, that while the locks of the Welland Canal were smaller than those of the St. Lawrence, and could not therefore pass vessels of half the tonnage capacity of the latter, still the draught of water through the Welland was one foot greater than through the St. Lawrence, and consequently vessels which could pass through the former, drawing ten feet of water and laden with 400 tons of freight, actually could not, without being lightened one foot, equivalent to 100 tons of cargo, descend the St. Lawrence.

This anomalous condition of the navigation has for years proved a serious drawback to the trade of the St. Lawrence, so much so as frequently to induce transhipment at Kingston; and several river barges of large tonnage are being built this year, expressly with the view of carrying on this branch of the trade.

This transhipment can only be obviated by establishing a uniform scale of navigation throughout, the immediate adoption of which is urgently demanded by the rapid increase of the Western trade, and becomes the more pressing from the periodical fluctuation of the waters of Lake Ontario and the river, which are now approaching their lowest levels.

The entrances to the Williamsburg and Cornwall Canals, especially, do not afford a sufficient volume of water for the satisfactory working of them during these low periods, unless the guard-gates are left entirely open, which greatly endangers the safety of the works.

Besides which, the continuance of strong easterly winds at such times, by retaining the water in Lake Ontario, lowers the river surface so much as to prevent the proper depth being maintained in these canals.

From the great natural advantages presented by the St. Lawrence as an outlet to sea for the products of the Western States, it is believed that the trade from these states through Canada must continue to increase.

It is, however, of paramount importance to foster its growth by affording every accommodation to vessels engaged in it, so that the route may be rendered thoroughly efficient, and may ultimately become as firmly established and well known as other leading commercial lines on this continent, which have hitherto proved formidable rivals for the carrying trade of North-western produce, and have thus prevented the full realization of the object for which the canals were mainly constructed.

CANADA.

These competing routes, from their connexion with the great commercial centres of New York and other Northern States (whose interests are closely allied to their success), must always attract a large portion of the trade. Nevertheless, it is believed that the present time is favourable for taking steps to fix a permanent line of traffic by way of the St. Lawrence; and, were this effected, means would, no doubt, ultimately accrue from the tolls by which the expenditure necessary for its full development would be defrayed.

With this important object in view, it is deemed necessary to again bring this subject prominently before your Excellency.

The chief engineer, in 1859, estimated the cost of deepening the St. Lawrence Canals to 10½ feet depth of water on the mitre-sills of the locks at $1,028,000. This does not, however, contemplate a lengthening of the locks, which it would be desirable to undertake at the same time.

REPORT.

State of the Volunteer Force.

On the 3d May 1862, the Deputies Adjutant General reported, for the information of the House of Assembly, that there were then organized in the Province 13,390 volunteers. Of these 29 companies were reported by Lieut.-Colonel Wily, after his tour of inspection, as having failed in their organization, and were disbanded. These 29 companies represented 1,450 volunteers, leaving as efficient at that date, 11,940. Since then companies representing 13,070 volunteers have been organized in different sections of the Province, making in all, up to this date, a total of 25,010.

Taking population as a basis, these volunteer corps are distributed as follows:—

Population all Canada (census 1861), 2,506,752; present volunteer force, 25,010; or say 10 volunteers for each 1,000 inhabitants.

Population—Lower Canada—1,110,664		Volunteers 10,230;	or say 9¼ for each 1,000.
„ Upper Canada—1,396,088		„ 14,780;	or say 11⅓ for each 1,000.
	2,506,752		25,010

Population all Canada, showing proportion of volunteers in cities and counties:—

Cities	257,273	Volunteers 8,525;	or say 33 for each 1,000.
Rural	2,249,479	„ 16,485;	or say 7⅓ for each 1,000.
	2,506,752		25,010

Population of cities:—

Lower Canada	153,389	Volunteers 5,500;	or say 36 for each 1,000.
Upper Canada	103,884	„ 3,025;	or say 29 for each 1,000.
	257,273		8,525

Population of rural parts:—

Lower Canada	957,275	Volunteers 4,730;	or say 5 for each 1,000.
Upper Canada	1,292,204	„ 11,755;	or say 9 for each 1,000.
	2,249,479		16,485

It will thus be seen that in the cities of Canada, those in the upper section of the Province contribute less, in proportion to their population, than do those in the lower section; while in the rural parts, Upper Canada contributes a larger number for each 1,000 inhabitants than does Lower Canada.

The volunteering, thus far, has been the free-will offering of the people, and it is gratifying to observe that in the counties of Upper Canada, with the exception of three, nearly every one has furnished its quota of the 25,000 now organized, while in many instances they are considerably beyond the proportionate number.

In Lower Canada, until of late, volunteer corps have been chiefly organized in the cities, but within the last six months a considerable number of volunteers have been organized in the rural parts, and now evidences are not wanting that ere long applications will be received at this department for permission to increase this number considerably.

The present volunteer force comprises field batteries, troops of cavalry, foot companies of artillery, engineer companies, rifle companies, companies of infantry, and naval and marine companies, and is divided properly into three classes, viz. class A. and two divisions of class B.

Corps in class A. are those who have furnished their own uniforms, and who have been paid $6·00, for each man uniformed, for 12 days drill performed in 1862.

First corps in class B. who have furnished their own uniforms, and who have been paid $6·00 in lieu of clothing, after 12 days drill performed in 1862.

Second corps in class B. who have been organized upon the understanding that they receive no pay for the 12 days drill, but that the Government will provide them with uniforms and drill instruction.

Of the corps in class A., 6 field batteries, 11 troops of cavalry, 2 companies of foot artillery, and 33 rifle companies have certified to the performance of 12 days drill, in accordance with the general order of the 4th November last, and have received from the Government $22,672 therefor.

Of the corps in class B., 3 troops of cavalry, 8 foot companies of artillery, 2 engineer corps, 49 rifle companies, 15 companies of infantry, and one naval company have certified to the performance of

12 days drill, in accordance with the general order of the 4th November last, and have received from the Government $20,952 therefor.

Military Districts.

The Province being divided into 21 military districts, or say Lower Canada 11 and Upper Canada 10, the volunteers in each district are under the immediate supervision of the Brigade Major, who has been appointed in accordance with the amended Militia Act of 1862, and whose duties are described as follows, in a general order which was issued by this department on the 17th November last :—

1. The Brigade Major of each district will superintend the drill and instruction of all volunteer companies within his district, furnishing monthly reports thereof to the Adjutant General's department, as to their state of discipline and efficiency, and average attendance at drill.

2. He will inspect, not less than once a quarter, and as often as he may be directed, the arms, accoutrements, great coats, and other stores issued to each company within his district, and forward to the Adjutant General's department quarterly returns thereof, or special reports, when required, as to their general state, and deficiencies when such occur.

3. The drill instructors in each district will be placed under his sole control. He will distribute them them through the districts, and detail them for their respective duties as occasion may require.

4. He will be required to organize drill associations amongst the officers and non-commissioned officers of each battalion of sedentary militia within his district, with a view to their acquiring such a knowledge of and proficiency in their drill and military duties as will enable them to impart, as occasion may require, the knowledge thus obtained to those under their command. This branch of his duty will also include the control and supervision of the organizations for drill contemplated by the 11th clause of the amended Militia Act of last session.

5. It will further be his duty to secure the enrolment of such quota as may be ordered from time to time among first-class service men within his district, first into companies, and whenever practicable next into battalions, under officers qualified to command them.

6. He will further be subject to such orders and regulations as the Commander-in-Chief may see fit from time to time to issue for his guidance and instruction. He will report direct to head quarters, and be the channel of all communications therewith in each military district, for the militia, both sedentary and active.

Since the appointment of these active officers in each district, much has been done in the organization of the militia into companies of volunteers and drill associations, but as yet a sufficient length of time has not elapsed to fully develope the new system, but judging from the results since the appointment of these brigade majors, the department has every reason to believe that as regards organization and drill in the several districts this branch of the militia staff has been decidedly successful.

Drill Instructors.

In August last the 46 drill instructors, who were sent to this country by the Imperal Government, were detailed for service in the different districts, and the following scale of daily pay was adopted; that is to say :—

	Cavalry.	Line.
Sergeant Major	$1·50	$1·37½
Troop Sergeant Major	1·37½	—
Color Sergeant	—	1·30
Sergeant	1·12½	1·00

The services of the instructors have been of great benefit and assistance to the newly organized corps. Since 1st of January, in order to meet the requirements of the increased number of volunteers in all parts of the country, arrangements have been made with the Imperial authorities to furnish 28 additional sergeants for employment in the chief cities, and 40 for employment in the rural districts of the Province, for which service the sergeants employed in the cities are to receive 40 cents per day, and those in the rural parts the same rates which were agreed upon for those who were originally sent from England for this service. The whole of these instructors, together with eight volunteers, are actively engaged in drilling the militia of the Province.

Arms.

All the corps organized since August last are armed, or are in course of being armed, with the Enfield Rifle. We annex hereto a list (marked No. 2.) of the different corps in whose favour requisitions for arms have already been issued upon the Imperial authorities at Montreal, under the provisions of the Circular of the Duke of Newcastle, under date of 14th May last.

Great Coats.

To all organizations of volunteers great coats have been issued, similar to those worn by the troops of the line.

Bugles and Trumpets.

In October last 200 bugles and trumpets were procured, and, since then, distributed amongst the different companies of volunteers.

CANADA.

Drill Books.

One copy of the pocket edition of the authorized book of field exercise and evolutions of infantry has been furnished to each officer of the volunteer force.

Sedentary Militia.

We append hereto the annual returns of the sedentary militia for the two sections of the Province, the distribution of which force may be known by an examination of the following abstract from the returns:—

Military Districts, Lower Canada	11
„ Upper „	10
Total	21
Battalions:	
Organized and annual returns received, Lower Canada	145
„ „ Upper „	233
Organized and annual returns not received, Lower Canada	49
„ „ Upper „	36
Not organized, Lower Canada	3
„ Upper „	2
Total Battalions	468
Staff Military Districts, Lower Canada	34
„ Upper „	34
Battalion Officers, Lower Canada	4,482
„ Upper „	7,242
Sergeants, Lower Canada	3,529
„ Upper „	4,808
First-Class Service Men, Lower Canada	33,630
„ Upper „	63,393
Second-Class Service Men, Lower Canada	58,213
„ Upper „	83,758
Reserve Men, Lower Canada	20,105
„ Upper „	25,917
Total rank and file, Lower Canada	111,948
„ Upper „	173,068
Total of all ranks, Lower Canada	119,993
„ Upper „	185,152
	305,145
The total number of militia men, of all ranks, in Lower Canada, is estimated at	190,000
The total number of militia men, of all ranks, in Upper Canada, is estimated at	280,000
Total	470,000

Drill Associations.

Under the provisions of the 11th section of the amended Militia Law, 76 drill associations, composed of the officers and non-commissioned officers of the sedentary militia, have been organized as follows: say, Lower Canada, 34; Upper Canada, 42; all of which will be supplied with arms and instruction for purposes of drill. Judging from the number of rolls reaching the department daily, it is fair to presume that during the next three months the total number of these associations will be considerably increased.

Drill Books.

By arrangement with the Imperial authorities, 2,000 copies of the pocket edition of the authorized book of field exercise and evolutions of infantry have been procured by this department, and sold to officers of the sedentary militia, at cost. The rapidity with which orders reached the department for

these books, after they were procured, is an evidence that the officers of the militia are taking an active interest in the present volunteer movement. CANADA.

All of which is respectfully submitted for your Excellency's consideration.

A. DE SALABERRY, Lt.-Colonel.
Dep. Adjt. Genl. Militia, L. C.
WALKER POWELL, Lt.-Colonel.
Dep. Adjt. Genl. Militia, U. C.

Adjutant General's Office,
Quebec, February 10, 1863.

To his Excellency the Governor General,
&c., &c., &c.
Quebec.

NOVA SCOTIA.

NOVA SCOTIA.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 88.)

Government House, Halifax, Nova Scotia,
October 15, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit to your Grace the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1862. I trust that the fact of my only temporarily administering the Government during the absence of the Marquis of Normanby will be a sufficient excuse for my not offering any remarks thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HASTINGS DOYLE.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Honourable ARTHUR GORDON to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.

(No. 9.)

Fredericton, February 1, 1864.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Grace the Report transmitting the Blue Book for the year 1862.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. GORDON.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.

REPORT to accompany the Blue Book for 1862.

General Condition of the Province.

The commencement of the year 1862 brought with it a relief from the feelings of gloom and anxiety which had darkened the close of 1861, for on the last day of the old year the news of the intention of the Government of the United States to release Messrs. Slidell and Mason was received at St. John, and speedily circulated through the Province. But though the apprehensions of war were thus removed, much remained to be done for the comfortable reception of the troops despatched by Her Majesty's Government to North America, when hostilities appeared imminent, and to facilitate their safe and speedy transmission to Canada.

2. At St. John, temporary barracks for over 2,000 were provided and fitted up by the provincial authorities before the arrival of the force, and the greatest alacrity and heartiness were everywhere displayed by the people at large in welcoming Her Majesty's troops to the Province. The whole operation of moving above 6,000 men through New Brunswick in the depth of winter was most successfully accomplished, with hardly a

NEW BRUNSWICK.

casualty, and without exposing either officers or men to any real discomfort or inconvenience.

3. On the 12th February I opened the first session of a new Parliament, a general election having taken place in the summer of 1861, in consequence of the full term of four terms, to which the existence of the Provincial Parliament is limited, having nearly expired.

4. On the 23d April I closed the session, the proceedings of which had not been of a nature to attract much general interest Although the list of Acts passed was a large one, they were almost exclusively of a purely local character. The most important perhaps was that for reorganizing the militia of the Province, and giving for the first time a legislative recognition to the volunteer force.

5. From the termination of the session to the end of the year few events marked the quiet and even tenour of public business. In the summer the new silver coinage on the decimal system was received and put into circulation. Early in September a meeting took place at Quebec between the Governor General of Canada, the Lieut.-Governor of Nova Scotia, and the Lieut.-Governor of this Province, and members of their respective Governments, at which an agreement was entered into with reference to the construction of an intercolonial railroad, and the acceptance of the aid offered towards the completion of that work by Her Majesty's Government. In consequence of a difference of opinion with his colleagues on this question, the Attorney General, Honourable A. Smith, resigned his office and seat in the Executive Council. I nominated as his successor the Honourable J. M. Johnson, Speaker of the House of Assembly.

6. Towards the close of the month of October a serious disturbance of the public peace was anticipated in the neighbourhood of the town of Woodstock, in consequence of the attitude assumed by a large body of railway navigators, whose pay had, for a lengthened period, been withheld from them by their employers. I thought it right to repair to Woodstock, and am happy to state that, owing to the measures adopted, tranquillity was preserved without any outbreak of violence, and without the necessity of any resort to force.

Revenue and Expenditure.

7. The revenue displayed some improvement, and symptoms of recovery from the falling off shown in 1861, caused to a great extent by the outbreak of the war in the United States, the amount collected in 1862 being 148,960*l.* sterling, as against 145,594*l.* sterling in 1861. I am happy to be able to report that this improvement has continued in a greatly increased ratio during the year just expired, and that from precisely the same sources the revenue collected in 1863 has amounted to no less than 176,000*l.* sterling, being an increase over that of 1862 of over 27,000*l.*

8. The expenditure of 1862 amounted to 166,766*l.* sterling; that of 1861 had been 176,051*l.* sterling. The expenditure for 1863 will be considerably within the income of the year.

Trade and Navigation.

9. The total value of imports at all the ports in the Province in 1862 was 1,291,604*l.* sterling; the total value of exports was 803,445*l.* sterling; making an excess of imports over exports of 488,159*l.* sterling. This would at first sight appear a somewhat unsatisfactory statement, but several facts must be taken into consideration which a good deal qualify its significance. All the outfits, fastenings, and ground tackle for new ships appear as imports, and pay duty accordingly, while the new ships themselves (and the value of those built in 1862 exceeded 450,000*l.* sterling) do not appear as exports. Again, nearly all the imports into the Province are entered at their proper value, whilst a large amount of what are in truth exports from New Brunswick are shipped on the American side of the River St. Croix and Canadian side of the River Restigouche, to avoid export duty, whilst many of the supplies for the upper part of the state of Maine are imported through New Brunswick, and do not appear as exports, not being liable to duty as such. There are also other reasons with which it is needless at present to trouble your Grace.

10. There were registered at the port of St. John in 1862 48 new vessels measuring 25,493 tons register, besides 13 new vessels measuring 12,808 tons, which were built for owners in the United Kingdom, and were not registered here, but sailed to England under passes from me. The total number and tonnage of new vessels registered at all the ports of New Brunswick in 1862 was 90 vessels, 48,719 tons register, all of which, with a single exception, were built in the Province. Many of these vessels were of very large dimensions and superior quality, classed as seven years A 1 at Lloyd's. During

the year just expired (1863) the activity in shipyards has increased to an extraordinary degree, and shows no present symptoms of slackening. In connexion with this subject, I may state that the stock of deals on hand at St. John at the beginning of 1862 was estimated at 70,000,000 feet, and at all the ports in the Province 160,000,000. The stock of pine timber on hand at St. John was estimated at 16,000 tons.

* *Public Works.*

11. The sum of $91,558 was expended on public works in the year 1862, being an amount somewhat less than that devoted to the same purpose in the previous year. Of this sum $53,529 were devoted to the maintenance and improvement of the great roads and bridges. Of these great roads, made and kept in repair at the public expense, there are 58, covering about 2,200 miles. There are few of these over which I have not travelled, and, though cheaply made, their condition is generally such as to merit admiration. The chief defect is in the culverts, which are seldom repaired with sufficient frequency, and the decay of which produces very inconvenient depressions, if not dangerous holes, in the roadway. The by-roads which open into these highways are, as might naturally be expected, in every various stage of goodness, from the neatly gravelled road of equal smoothness and durability with the great lines of communication to the rough track barely passable by the rudest vehicle.

12. Three large bridges were built at the public expense during the year 1862; that over Coal Creek has a length of 660 feet.

13. A considerable sum was devoted to the improvement of the internal navigation, and towards subsidizing a line of steamers for intercolonial communication between this Province, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Canada.

* *Crown Lands.*

14. 2,030 applications for land were received at the Crown Land Office in 1862, of which 752 were for land to be sold by auctioa, and the remaining 1,278 were applications under the Labour Act.

15. It is not possible to state with perfect accuracy what quantity of land was required by each class of applicants, because many of the lots were then and still are unsurveyed, and the contents of such lots, though inserted in the applications, were merely conjectural; but assuming an average of 100 acres for each petition (which is probably much below the mark, few being for a less amount, many of the auction petitions containing a much larger quantity), the applications would represent an aggregate of 203,000 acres.

16. Three tracts of land for actual settlement, one of 7,000 acres on the river Nashwaak, and two of 9,400 and 6,500 acres respectively, in the county of Carleton, were surveyed by order of the Government in the course of 1862, and a large number of lots in each tract have already been applied for and located.

17. Some efforts were made during 1862 to check abuses to which the facilities afforded by the Labour Acts had given rise. There is, however, ample scope left for future exertions in this direction.

18. The number of licences to cut timber issued in 1862 was 764. Considering the vast quantities of timber cut, I am by no means satisfied with the amount of revenue derived from this source, and which was under $1,900. Great difficulties attend any considerable alteration in the existing system, but the time cannot be far distant when changes demanded by the public interest will be effected, with good results.

19. Pending the settlement of the railway negociations, I have, by an Order in Council, suspended the sale of Crown Lands, except for actual settlement. This measure was rendered necessary by the proceedings of certain speculators, who bought and locked up from settlement large tracts of land, in hope of an ultimate rise in their value.

* *Education.*

20. The provincial expenditure on account of education amounted in 1862 to $41,507, and the local contributions for the support of schools to $106,524.

21. The schools in operation amounted to 823, and the teachers employed to 831. Out of 823 schools, 12 are grammar schools, one of these being situated in each county, and 23 what are termed superior schools, where instruction is given in the classics and other higher branches of education. The number of children attending these schools is

* It must be borne in mind that under those heads to which an asterisk is prefixed the year is calculated, not from the 1st January to the 31st December, but from the 1st November to 31st October, the provincial financial year.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

estimated at about 29,000. 68 new school-houses, many of them handsome buildings, were erected in the year 1862.

22. The University of New Brunswick, which had at one time sunk to a position from which it appeared almost hopeless to expect it ever to emerge, has, under the able management of the present Principal, Dr. Brydone Jack, entirely recovered the efficiency which it had lost, and is now in a condition which must cause the liveliest satisfaction to all friends of sound education. During 1862 there were 49 resident undergraduate students at the University; the largest number,I believe, it has ever had within its walls; and 97 pupils in the collegiate school.

23. There are various flourishing acadamies in the Province of a denominational character, independent of the Government, in which education is afforded on a more or less ambitious scale.

24. The year 1862 has on the whole been one of progress, and although the effects of the war on this continent are undoubtedly still felt severely, prosperity has revived more rapidly than could have been anticipated. Agricultural occupations were attended with abundant success, and I may safely conclude with the expression of my belief that the Province at large is thriving and contented.

I have unfortunately too long delayed the transmission of this Report, and now am unable to devote to its preparation that time and care which its subject demands. Generally, however, the statements I have made will be found sufficient to explain and illustrate the details furnished by the provincial Blue Book.

Fredericton, ARTHUR H. GORDON.
January 30, 1864.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor DUNDAS to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 93.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, October 26, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith duplicate copies of the Blue Book for the year 1862.

2. Notwithstanding the depression of trade which has prevailed since the commencement of the war in the North American Union, I have a favourable report generally to make of the state of this Colony.

3. The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in agriculture. Sudden vicissitudes of fortune do not therefore frequently occur, but there appears to be a gradual improvement in the culture of the soil, and new farmhouses and buildings are invariably of greater pretension than those which preceded them; signs, I trust, of increasing prosperity.

4. There is one great source of wealth round the coasts of the island which is almost neglected by its inhabitants; I allude to the fisheries. During the summer months hundreds of schooners are attracted to the shores of this island from the neighbouring Provinces and from the United States, while it is the exception to find a vessel belonging to this island engaged in this occupation.

5. I shall now proceed to notice some of the returns of this Blue Book, as compared with the similar returns of the previous year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

6. The revenue of the Colony for the year (25,861*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*) fell short of that of the preceding year by 2,144*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* This decrease chiefly occurred under the heads of "Imposts" and "Sales of Public Lands."

7. The expenditure for the year, 34,451*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, was larger by 1,651*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* than that of the preceding twelvemonth. This principally arose from an increased expenditure on roads, bridges, and wharves. The present arrangement, by which the care and management of the roads and bridges are entrusted to local Commissioners, is not, in my opinion, economical, nor is it satisfactory in its working. A measure which would transfer the general control of roads and bridges to a competent engineer would, I am confident, prove a judicious one.

8. The expenditure for the year was 8,590*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* in excess of the revenue.

9. I brought this inequality between revenue and expenditure to the notice of the Legislature at the opening of the session of 1863. The Legislature took steps which are likely to prove effectual towards improving the financial condition of the Colony. It yielded to the Executive the initiation of money grants in the Assembly. By giving to the several districts power to raise part of the teacher's salary by local assessment it diminished the public expenditure on "Education," an item which in 1862 absorbed 11,000*l.* of the revenue (25,000*l*). It also increased the ad valorem duties on imports. These points, however, will be considered more fitly in the Report which will accompany the Blue Book for 1863.

10. The "Public Debt" at the close of the year 1862 was 54,803*l.* To meet this debt there were about 42,000 acres of public lands in the hands of the Government, and the sum of 24,483*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* was due as instalments on account of sales, bearing interest at five per cent.

General Commerce.

11. The value of imports for the year was 211,240*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, an increase of 1,305*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* on the value of those of 1861. The value of exports was 150,549*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*, 12,565*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* less than that of the preceding year. The value, however, of 57 vessels of 7,715 tons transferred to other ports is not taken into account.

12. There is a slight increase in trade with Great Britain, both in value of exports and of imports. In trade with the United States, the imports have increased in value by 4,700*l.* The exports thereto have decreased by 3,300*l.*

Public Lands.

13. I enclose a summary of the accounts of the several estates in the hands of the Government. All amounts in this return are in currency money, which is of one-third less value than sterling.

Government House and Furniture.

14. I have, in accordance with colonial regulations, caused a general report of the state of Government House and furniture to be inserted in this Blue Book. I may report that the house and furniture generally have been very considerably improved since my arrival in 1859. The house is furnished partly by the Government, and partly at the expense of the Lieut.-Governor. The house and Government furniture are under the control of a Committee appointed by the Legislature.

15. The ground on which the house is situated forms part of a piece of ground consisting of about 80 acres of land which in the year 1789 was granted by Lieut.-Governor Fanning to the Governor General, or in his absence to the Lieut.-Governor for the time being, for their "use and accommodation for ever."

Council and Assemblies.

16. In consequence of the Act to render the Legislative Council elective having received Her Majesty's special confirmation, I, on the 2nd December, dissolved the existing Council by Proclamation. On the following day I also dissolved the Assembly, which under the quadrennial Act would have ceased to exist in the spring of 1863. The elections for each of these bodies took place early in 1863.

Military Expenditure.

17. The item of 414*l.* for volunteers includes 266*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* granted for the volunteer service, and the sum of 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, the salary of the Adjutant General. The remainder is composed of extra grants made by the legislature for various small items. It is gratifying to me to be able to report, that, notwithstanding the inadequate provision made by the Legislature towards the volunteer service, this force during the year increased in numbers and efficiency. This is entirely owing to the patriotism and spirited conduct of the volunteers themselves, who have necessarily, under present circumstances, to incur much expenditure, which, in my opinion, should be defrayed from the public Treasury.

18. I think it right to direct your Grace's attention to the state of the militia laws. In 1851 an Act was passed (14 Vict. Cap. 6.), enacting that the militia should not be liable to be called out for muster or training except only in times of war, civil commotion, or other sufficient emergency. Another Act was passed in 1858 (21 Vict.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Cap. 9.) which gives the Lieut.-Governor power to call out this force, whenever it shall in his opinion be advisable to do so, by reason of war, invasion, or insurrection, riot, or civil commotion, or imminent danger of either of them. The enrolment directed by the Act 3 Will. 4. Cap. 30. appears to have been habitually neglected, and the militia is, in consequence, completely disembodied.

19. I have no wish to call in question the wisdom of the Legislature, which in 1851 did away with the annual muster and training, but I trust that the present Legislature may, ere long, take into consideration the changes which have occurred on the American continent since that period, with a view to passing an enactment which will not only provide for the enrolment of men liable to service but also for their annual muster and their regular drill.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE DUNDAS,

The Right Hon. the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 4.

Enclosure in No. 4.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC LANDS.

"Worrell Estate and Lot 11."

Lot.	No. of Acres.	Amount sold for.	Amount Deeds.	Amount paid.	Amount paid on Deeds.	Amount due on Purchase.	Discount.	Interest on Balances.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
38	8,012	3,736 5 0	47 5 0	2,159 5 6	27 15 0	2,260 19 1	31 15 10	696 5 5
39	11,525¼	5,948 4 4	67 10 0	3,286 7 5	38 0 0	3,484 17 6	21 6 6	814 17 1
40	6,117¼	2,879 12 11	37 17 0	1,772 7 4½	25 7 0	1,595 17 5	11 1 3	487 3 1½
41	11,307	5,294 12 0	65 0 0	2,946 16 3	27 15 0	3,307 0 4	25 7 8	947 7 3
42	6,726¾	3,210 0 3	23 5 0	1,868 19 3	12 17 6	1,872 7 3	20 11 0	541 9 9
43	2,003	1,125 5 6	10 15 0	761 6 8	10 0 0	569 5 8	14 1 9	218 13 7
66	1,121	447 8 6	3 10 0	304 15 5	3 10 0	207 17 11	5 3 3	70 8 1
11	8,610	3,409 8 6	31 5 0	2,117 13 8	23 5 0	1,702 7 0	47 14 6	450 6 8
	55,422¼	26,050 17 0	286 7 0	15,217 11 6½	168 9 6	15,000 12 2	177 1 9	4,226 10 11½
			"Selkirk Estate."					
53	3,139	1,090 0 0	13 0 0	268 5 9	3 10 0	883 5 2	—	52 0 11
57	10,504	4,453 18 0	74 10 0	1,414 12 8	28 18 0	3,352 4 2	8 16 0	276 2 10
58	11,672	4,186 9 6	78 10 0	1,318 19 4	38 0 0	3,198 9 9	2 0 0	292 9 7
59	5,210	1,774 1 0	37 0 0	678 12 11	12 0 0	1,236 9 10	—	116 1 9
60	12,495½	4,066 1 9	76 10 0	1,167 10 9	28 0 0	3,175 3 7	—	228 2 7
62	10,586¾	3,837 6 6	66 0 0	1,030 0 3	21 0 0	3,085 18 0	7 9 0	241 0 9
	53,607¼	19,407 16 9	345 10 0	5,878 1 8	131 8 0	14,931 10 6	18 5 0	1,205 18 5
			"Lot 54."					
54	10,497	4,127 18 11	60 5 0	1,084 19 7	20 0 0	3,214 4 5	—	131 0 1

SYNOPSIS OF SUMMARY.

"Worrell Estate and Lot 11."

Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.
To amount of lands sold -	26,050 17 0	By amount paid on lands -	15,217 11 6½
,, deeds - -	286 7 0	,, ,, deeds -	168 9 6
Interest on balances - -	4,226 10 11½	,, due on lands -	15,000 12 2
		Discount - - -	177 1 9
	30,563 14 11½		30,563 14 11½

"Selkirk Estate."

Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.
To amount of lands sold -	19,407 16 9	By amount paid on lands -	5,878 1 8
,, deeds - -	345 10 0	,, ,, deeds -	131 8 0
Interest on balances -	1,205 18 5	,, due on lands -	14,931 10 6
		Discount - - -	18 5 0
	20,959 5 2		20,959 5 2

"Lot 54."

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To amount of lands sold -	4,127	18	11	By amount paid on lands -	1,084	19	7
,, deeds - -	60	5	0	,, ,, deeds -	20	0	0
Interest on balances - -	131	0	1	,, due on lands -	3,214	4	5
	4,319	4	0		4,319	4	0

ABSTRACT showing the amount paid on purchase, and the amount due on sales and bonds, the quantity of land purchased, and the acreage unsold.

"Worrell Estate and Lot 11."

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To amount paid on purchase of lands - - -	23,500	0	0	By amount due on sales - -	15,000	12	2
				,, ,, bonds -	578	17	0
				Balance - - -	7,920	10	10
To balance - - -	7,920	10	10		23,500	0	0

Dr.	Acres.	Cr.	Acres.
To quantity of land purchased, as per report - - - - -	83,259	By quantity of land sold - -	55,422¼
		Balance - - - -	27,836¾
To balance unsold - -	27,836¾		83,259

"Selkirk Estate."

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To amount paid on purchase of lands - - -	9,918	0	9	By amount due on sales - -	14,931	10	6
Balance - - -	5,013	9	9				
	14,931	10	6	By balance in favour of estate -	5,013	9	9

Dr.	Acres.	Cr.	Acres.
To quantity of land purchased, as per report - - -	62,059	By quantity of land sold - -	53,607¼
		Balance - - - -	8,451¾
To balance unsold - -	8,451¾		62,059

"Lot 54."

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To amount paid on purchase of lands - - -	3,000	0	0	By amount due on sales - -	3,214	4	5
Balance - - -	214	4	5				
	3,214	4	5	By balance in favour of estate -	214	4	5

Dr.	Acres.	Cr.	Acres.
To quantity of land purchased, as per report - - - -	13,000	By quantity of land sold -	10,497
		Balance - - - -	2,503
To balance unsold - -	2,503		13,000

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 5.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No 5.

[Not received.]

BERMUDA.

No. 6.

BERMUDA.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from GOVERNOR ORD to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 41.)

MY LORD DUKE, Bermuda, April 21, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Grace the Blue Book for the year 1862.

Taxes.

2. The only alteration under this head has been a reduction of the "ad valorem duty" on general imports from 3½ to 3 per cent.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue has been 21,804*l.*, as compared with 17,381*l.* in the last year, and the expenditure has risen from 17,604*l.* to 19,298*l.* in the same period. The augmentation of revenue is mainly due to the receipts under the Supply Bill, which have increased from 10,869*l.* to 14,309*l.* The lighthouse receipts have also risen from 644*l.* to 1,146*l.*, and the amount received for fees from 848*l.* to 1,208*l.* The expenditure has been 19,298*l.*, as compared with 17,604 in 1861; the difference, 1,694*l.*, is almost entirely covered by the increased outlay for roads, and by the paying off a sum of 869*l.* borrowed two years since.

Imports and Exports.

4. In both imports and exports there has been a large increase; the former having risen from 164,503*l.* to 238,932*l.*; the latter from 29,780*l.* to 40,415*l.*

Shipping.

5. The entries of shipping have also been more numerous than in the preceeding years, in the proportion of 220 to 314, the principal increase being in the number of vessels from Great Britain.

General Observations.

6. On the whole the past year has been one of considerable prosperity to the Colony; with diminished taxation it has had an increased revenue; and after making a very fair appropriation of funds for objects of public importance it has a balance of upwards of 4,000*l.* in the Treasury; still it must not be forgotten that Bermnda itself has had no hand in producing this result, and that the causes which have led to it will probably before long cease to operate, and the Colony be again thrown on its own resources. It is to be hoped that when this happens it will not be found either that the resources themselves, or the capacity of the people for developing them, have been diminished to a serious extent, although the falling off in the amount of exports, the produce of the Colony, which the returns exhibit, does not serve to allay apprehension on this head.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. (Signed) H. ST. GEORGE ORD,
&c. &c. &c. Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

No. 7.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

No. 7.

[Not received.]

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 8.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from LIEUT.-GOVERNOR BLACKALL, to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 59.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, Sierra Leone, May 18, 1863.

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith the Blue Book for this Colony for the year 1862.

2. Considering the short experience I have had here, and the very elaborate report which accompanied the Blue Book last year, I feel that many comments from me are unnecessary.

3. I am happy, however, to be able to say, that in my opinion this Colony possesses and is developing resources of future prosperity. Trade is active, the anxiety to follow agricultural pursuits is increasing, and all the neighbouring chiefs assure me of their desire to maintain amicable relations with this Government.

4. It is also very satisfactory to me to be able to state that this Colony compares most favourably with the other parts of this coast which I have had an opportunity of visiting, in christianity and civilization, and the best feeling has been shown towards me, and every support given to me by all classes, since my assumption of the administration of this Government.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. &c. &c. &c. (Signed) SAMUEL W. BLACKALL, Lieutenant-Governor.

GAMBIA.

No. 9.

GAMBIA.

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor D'ARCY to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 228.)

Government House, Bathurst, Gambia.

MY LORD DUKE, September 25, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of 1862, accompanied by the usual Report.

Revenue.

The decrease in the revenue, notwithstanding the civil war amongst the natives in our neighbourhood, has in a great measure ceased, for the amount collected—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1861 is - - - -	10,979	12	0
„ 1862 „ - - - -	10,955	19	2
Decrease only -	23	12	10

The comparative yearly statement of the revenue collected in the customs house shows a decrease of 90*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, which amount, taking into consideration the alterations made in the revenue by the Customs Ordinance, 1863, abolishing the payment (or collection) of the 4 per cent. ad valorem duty upon all goods imported into the Colony, from and after the 26th August 1862, is very small indeed, the decrease in that duty amounting to 1,207*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*

An export duty of 3*s.* 4*d.* per bushel on ground nuts and 2*d.* each on hides has been substituted for the 4 per cent. ad valorem duty, but the collection did not commence until the 1st January 1863, and I cannot therefore speak in this report of the favourable results of the fiscal reform.

The apparent increase under the head of duty on wines and spirits, amounting to 526*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*, arises from the late Ordinance. Wines and spirits paid an extra and additional extra duty; but the Customs Ordinance, 1863, abolishes these duties, and imposes a duty in lieu thereof, from and after 26th August 1862. The increase shown of 166*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* under the head of extra duties on wines and spirits is caused by the bonds for that duty given in 1861 falling due and paid in 1862; the decrease of 188*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* in additional extra duties upon the same articles showing that up to the 26th August 1862 there was no remarkable increase in importation of these articles; but the total amount, viz., duty, extra duty, and additional extra duty, collected on wines and spirits during the year 1862, show an increase of 503*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* This arises principally from the large quantities of wine imported lately, the duty on which has been increased by Customs Ordinance, 1863, from 6*d.* to 9*d.* per gallon.

The importation of tobacco shows a decrease of 41*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* By the above-mentioned Customs Ordinance, 1863, importers of tobacco are allowed to give bond (due 12 months after date) for the duties on tobacco, as well as for those on wines and spirits; and several merchants having availed themselves of this privilege will account for the apparent decrease. The actual quantities imported, as per Blue Book, are as follows; viz.:

	lbs.
1861 - - - -	530,476
1862 - - - - - -	588,412
Increase -	57,936

The Colah nut crop in Sierra Leone during the year 1861 was a very spare one; but the year 1862 produced a fair average crop, consequently the importation into this Colony, where it forms one of the staple articles of trade, was much increased.

The deputations sent by me during the year 1861 to the native kings and chiefs, through whose territory the jowlahs pass on their way from their own country to make palm wine in this Colony, having had the desired effect, these people arrived in greater numbers than during the former season.

The increase in tonnage dues is accounted for by the returns which show that the tonnage of vessels entered at this port during the year 1862 exceeds that of 1861 by more than 5,000 tons, although the actual number of vessels is less, from the circumstance that the French merchant, desirous of evading the harbour dues, endeavours to make several voyages in the current year by the employment of fine clipper vessels.

The increase in quarantine fees arises from a number of small vessels and boats coming into the harbour with and for letters, &c., all of which are liable to and are charged this fee, but are not otherwise reported.

Pilotage shows an increase of 25*l.* 5*s.* By the new Pilotage Ordinance, 1862, the amount payable by vessels entering and leaving this port was increased from 5*s.* to 6*s.* per foot.

Exports.

I have to report a further increase in the exportation of ground-nuts to a very considerable extent, viz., 4,146 tons 6 cwt. 3 qrs. 14 lbs., the crop for the past year having been a very full one.

The exportation of hides shows a very large decrease, viz., 10,312 in number. Owing to the war in America, and consequent want of a market, the merchants have stored their hides; but there is still a large decrease in this article, as also in ivory and clean wax, the trade in those articles formerly carried on between this port and the leeward and windward coasts, from whence it was imported into this Colony, having declined very materially; in fact the small quantity exported arrives by the M'Carthy Island route, and is now confined to but one mercantile house.

Legislation.

The most important Act of the Legislature of the past year is the new Apprentice Law, which I trust will be confirmed by Her Majesty. I was compelled to proclaim the law. Many respectable inhabitants in the town being apprised of its spirit became desirous of at once availing themselves of the advantages held out. They visited "Outram town," where the poor starving parents most readily gave up their children as apprentices. I had the pleasure of signing at Government House no less than 100 indentures in one day, and they are still flocking in, the wanderers having by tradition the greatest confidence in any law made by the British government.

GAMBIA.

I have in previous Despatches explained to your Grace how the French captains of vessels evaded the provisions of the Ballast Ordinance, by throwing it overboard just beyond the three leagues prescribed by law. It became my object to construct a *pont d'or*, by legislation, to land this essential; but the Council were of opinion that it was monetarily too favourable to the foreigner, yet I am inclined to think a re-action has taken place in the opinions of the board, the necessity of roads having been of late so very apparent; with one or two slight modifications I think I shall be able to pass my bill next session; yet it is to be regretted that before that period can arrive this sand-bank will lose many hundred tons of stones * * * * *

I then endeavoured to effect socially that which I could not enforce by law. M. M. Blauchet, the minister of the Roman Catholic Mission, begged I would grant him 100 tons of stone to repair his chapel, reminding me at the same time that this valuable material was brought from France in French ships. Admitting this axiom, I made him at the same time understand the whole subject; and he promised to use his influence in persuading the captains next year to land their ballast, instead of throwing it into the sea. The Mission is held in such respect that I have no doubt a request coming from such a quarter will have considerable weight, and that the road to the lung of the colony, Cape St. Mary's, will be soon thus completed, to the great advantage of the European community and the inhabitants generally.

I was also defeated in Council on the occasion of the repeal of the town dues, owing to the unexpected illness of some members who promised to support my measure. I was anxious to expunge this only direct tax from the statute book. It is obnoxious to the people, and owing to the want of tact on the part of the constables it is often levied with harshness and want of consideration. The amount collected is only 300*l.* a year, one sixth of this amount going to the officer whose duty it is to make the collection.

Education.

Some days previous to the Midsummer holidays, I held my annual examination of the schools. It occurred to me that unprepared visits to the several missions would be a better test of proficiency than the usual public occasion of examination. Consequently I stepped into the Wesleyan schoolhouse at 7 o'clock one morning, and found the schoolmaster, Mr. Peynton, hard at work instructing 160 children. I then proceeded critically to examine the different classes. The pronunciation of the boys, in reading, was excellent, and their general intelligence of a higher order than I expected. I was also much pleased to find that their attention had been directed to geography, the omission of which branch of knowledge I had commented on the year before. The reading and writing of the girls was very creditable, and their sewing clean and neat; the discipline of the school being just what it ought to be, the scholars were very governable, and they seemed to regard their teachers with affection. Including their scholastic establishment at M'Carthy's Island, the Wesleyan mission educates no less a number than 403 children, of whom 223 are boys and 180 are girls. The Colonial Government has for many years bestowed 100*l.* a year on this mission for educational purposes, and for the last three years a sum of 20*l.* a year for distribution amongst the poor for 1864. This charity is increased to 30*l.*, besides a special grant of 20*l.* in aid of building the schoolhouse and chapel at Newcastle, British Combo.

Next in order comes the Roman Catholic Mission School, where I also proceeded unannounced. I found 55 boys under the tuition of an English schoolmaster. The establishment is conducted on most liberal principles, the mission very properly having determined that the children born in an English Colony ought to be educated in no other language than English. The good sisters of the mission were instructing 50 girls in sewing. I examined their copy books, and the writing quite equalled the style usually to be met with in English female schools. The Government has also increased the educational grant 70*l.* a year, and they have also received 20*l.* a year for distribution amongst the poor, increased to 30*l.* for 1864.

* * * * *

Of the Garrison School I do not know so much, as it is a matter of detail for the Commanding Officer's attention; but I find by the returns that out of the small force stationed in this town 3 serjeants, 5 corporals, 2 drummers, 30 privates, 26 boys, and 14 girls regularly attend school, under the charge of a civilian schoolmaster of ability, Mr. Charles Moore, who, as Colonial Clerk, instructs, by my desire, every week, 20 Congo boys (lately liberated from slavery) in the Lord's prayer, the 10 commandments, the Church catechism, together with vivâ você instructions in geography and common things. Thus have we no less a number than 659 little people under instruction in a settlement numbering 6,000 inhabitants, being little more than nine per cent. of the

population, which I cannot help thinking is very creditable to the Government and to the community. Moreover a sum of 100*l.* is set aside by the Council for 1864, at the disposal of the newly appointed Colonial Chaplain, to establish next year a Colonial Government School in connection with the Garrison School; 30*l.* a year is also at this reverend gentleman's disposal for charitable purposes. These several donations are requisite in a settlement as yet without a poor or alms house.

Combo.

This district is becoming more interesting every day, and more advantageous to the Colony. The liberated Africans are beginning to see the great advantage of agriculture, and that all cannot be traders. Very nearly the whole of the district is under cultivation, except the great tract running south-east which separates British from Lower or Native Combo.

It was considered good policy by my predecessors, with the view of encouraging settlers, not to tax the country for some years after the cession. This consideration has had the desired effect of adding to the population, and of turning a large arena of bush into a waving mass of cultivation, but it has saddled me, in 1863, with the invidious position of an excise-man. I have experienced very great difficulty in collecting the revenue, so much so as to render it necessary for me to adopt the strong measure of ejectment as soon as the ground nut crop is collected, when the farmers can have no excuse for not paying to Her Majesty that which from time immemorial they have paid to their native Kings and Chiefs.

All well-wishers of the African race will read with intense interest Governor Bayley's very interesting report for 1862 on the Bahamas, especially in paragraph the sixth, where he dwells so feelingly on the disappointment he experienced in the conduct of 400 Congoes whom he had received as emigrants from the coast of Africa two years before. By your Grace's permission I received the smaller freight of 200 about the same time, and I have the greatest pleasure in reporting that they have by far exceeded my most sanguine expectations. 50 boys were bound to respectable mechanics in the town, and they are now in a very fair way of becoming, when their apprenticeship is expired, skilful carpenters, mechanics, and shipbuilders. This youthful body have evinced a very uncommon desire to attain knowledge, so much so as to cause my requesting their masters to allow them one night in the week to attend in the Garrison schoolroom, for the purpose of being taught vivâ você common things. Of this body I have really had very few complaints from their masters; but, strange to say, they have complained to me on more than one occasion that their masters have not taught them "good," bestowing more care on the "free apprentices," as they call the Colony-born.

The remaining number of 150 are located in British Combo in a very flourishing little village called Barrow Town, where they have become agriculturists, and with very few exceptions they have realized money sufficient for all their wants, proving a source of military strength to the Colony, and supplying the market of this town with palm wine, eggs, fowls, cassada, ground nuts, and vegetables of different kinds.

* * * * * * *

Viewing the African as a labourer, he is a good creature in his way, submissive, and easily controlled by a strong mind; being, however, without education, he acts from impulse, and has no control over his emotions and passions. I have known them frequently die of a broken heart after only a night's confinement in gaol, and commit suicide on the first disgrace or even reverse of fortune. The West Indian and the Sierra Leone creole, on the contrary, has been taught from the force of circumstances to exercise some little judgment in ordinary affairs, and consequently weighs a little before he acts; but, again, his self-sufficiency is ridiculous, owing, I fancy, solely to want of example, and to that Spiritual education he receives from the good but scarcely practical missionaries.

Improvements.

Improvements present themselves in British Combo. During the past year a small but safe bridge has been thrown across the creek at Jeshwang, by which road all the produce and traffic passes to Bathurst from the main land, and a stone chapel has made its appearance at Newcastle, to the great delight of our Colony-born subjects. Owing to the zeal of the manager, bridle-roads sufficiently broad for two horsemen to ride abreast intersect the country; an improvement on the Indian file pathways used by the natives, and the sabbagee wood has nearly disappeared beneath the settler's axe. In the town of Bathurst the sea-wall has answered all expectations, allowing the arena saved from the sea to be disposed of in lots by public auction, retaining the outside circle as a race-

GAMBIA.

course. On dark nights, from the shipping, the newly-erected lights in Wellington Street have a very pretty appearance, and tend considerably to assist the police; and about 600*l.* of the rate money has been expended, under the able superintendence of Mr. Robertson, the Colonial Secretary, in facing the drains with masonry, and in completing the footpath in Wellington Street. Householders having last year constructed a foot-path in their immediate frontage, the street, which used to be so tiring to pedestrians, is now converted into a pleasant promenade.

The Clifton road to Cape Saint Mary's, a distance of about seven miles, is in course of construction by the chain gang, and the starving people who, as your Grace is aware, flocked to the Colony from the misery caused by the Civil War. Military communication with the Cape will now be prompt and sure, and the easy communication will be favourable to invalids. Nor have our settlements on the other side of the river been forgotten; for a handful of rice a day the women and children of the first starving exodus who arrived last March have constructed a very durable pathway through Berwick Town of the decomposed broken oyster shells; and the Militia Artillery, while stationed at Fort Bullen (in the absence of the troops at Lagos), built a small pier or jetty of the ironstone boulders that abound on the sea-shore of the mainland, and in this work the men were not assisted by a European officer; it was solely superintended by the native non-commissioned officer in charge, Serjeant Elliott, a Colony-born African.

It is always a pleasing task for a coast Governor to be able to speak in praise of the African. During all the trying scenes which for the last 18 months have taken place at Berwick Town, Barra Point, the constable, or alcade, as he is termed by the natives, Charles Wasser, a prosperous but uneducated liberated African, has conducted affairs in his little district with a wisdom, tact, courage, and humanity worthy of the greatest praise. Unfortunately both Charles Wasser and Mr. Campbell, the gaoler, were redeemed too late in life for education to have any effect, otherwise these public servants might have, with confidence, vied with Europeans in any capacity.

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Cotton.

Your Grace did me the honour to forward my Report to the Manchester Association on the capabilities of the adjacent countries for growing cotton to an amount sufficient for exportation, and I received a very practical reply in the receipt of one ton of beautiful Egyptian seed. This I have distributed along the banks of the river to many English and French traders; and in order to encourage its growth I have selected in British Combo a piece of ground adapted from its loamy nature to the growth of the desired article. This spot I have retained as a Government cotton farm, not only to serve as an example, but to enable the manager and other officials to learn all particulars connected with its cultivation.

The summer vacation is always spent in England by the Bathurst merchant, who thus avoids the unfavourable season on the coast, and at the same time saves agency. On their return last November I observed a public spirited resolve on their part to give the trade a trial; they all exported gins, and soon the cheerful busy sound of machinery at work was heard in Wellington Street by the passer by, and no less an amount than 60 tons was exported to Liverpool last year. The remuneration is however trifling, even during the present high prices. The grower, from some unexplained cause, cannot sell it under 2½*d.* per pound in its raw state. Whilst the price of cotton equal to the Gambia sample I have the honour to enclose fetches 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb. in Manchester, the expenses of sending it home, including commission, freight, &c., amount to at least 3*d.* a pound, leaving 1*s.* 3*d.* as the net price, and it takes about four pounds of raw cotton to give one pound of clean. The labour is, moreover, expensive, leaving only a gain of 5*d.* the pound to the merchant. The commercial feeling here is, that if it was presented in its raw state at 1½*d.* a pound it would soon form a staple export; but, I am more inclined to encourage the grower to clean the article, as the merchant is slow to undertake a new line of trade, foreign to his experience, involving an outlay of capital in the building of stores and outhouses for the working of the gin and for storage. If the native could be induced to prepare and clean it, I think we should be advancing a step in the right direction; and might not this be done by the Colonial Government distributing the simple cheap Turkish or the Maltese gin to the farmers? I never cease importuning the river kings and chiefs to encourage the growth of cotton; but it is very discouraging to be met with this invariable reply, "Why should we be more industrious than our forefathers?" Yet industry has made a great stride amongst them of late years, quoted, I believe, in the House of Commons, by the Prime Minister. In 1837 only 671 tons of ground nuts were exported, and in 1858 the amount was officially recorded as 15,729 tons! What was

the impulse which compelled the native to take so industrious a stride? Let us hope that in 22 years from the present date the export of cotton may increase in the same proportion, and I really see no reason why it should not, provided every encouragement is given to the farmer, verging upon a guarantee that his unusual industry will meet with a prompt sale. Then, instead of 40,788 tons of French shipping, 1883 may see an equal tonnage of British shipping riding in these waters, and the African himself, improved by the possession of wealth, may indulge in civilized wants and requirements procured from the markets of Great Britain.

The accompanying return, filled in by the various mercantile houses, I have the honour to annex:—

Names of House.	Amount of Cotton received from the Natives in a Raw State since August 1862.	Amount likely to be exported and has been exported since August 1862.	Remarks of Merchants.
	Tons. Cwts. Qrs. Lbs.	Tons. Cwts. Qrs. Lbs.	
Messrs. Brown & Co.	23 15 0 0	18 17 0 0	The process of cleaning by hand labour is too tedious and expensive to induce persons to enter into the undertaking of cleaning cotton for the home market.
„ Chown & Co.	5 14 0 0	Shipped 61 Bales of clean Cotton to London, weighing 9,707 lbs.	
„ W. H. Goddard	0 6 0 0	None - - -	Received from the river from August 1862 to August 1863 about 8 Cwts. from quantity stored before.
„ Forster & Smith	11 9 0 5	None has been exported to England as yet, the machinery for cleaning it not yet being wholly set up - -	Introduce the simple Maltese roller gin, and also the Turkish gin costing $2, among the Natives, to enable them to clean it themselves, and bring it to market in an exportable state.
„ Quin & Co. -	1 13 0 22	Shipped 42 Bales of Cotton to London, about 2,000 lbs., of which 2 Bales are clean.	
„ Ingram -	4 9 0 0	Shipped 30 Bales of clean Cotton to Liverpool, about 2,400 lbs.	

Climate.

All particulars in reference to the climate of the coast of Africa ought to be made known. It would be satisfactory to record a conviction that the stone buildings, well-appointed houses, civilized comforts, and improved drainage had lessened the prevalence of the coast fever in the island of St. Mary's; but it is not so; and until the marsh situated to windward of the town is drained I fear the mournful statistics will still place Gambia almost out of the pale of life insurance companies.

* * * * *

The range of the thermometer during the past year has been 76. This is far below the heat endured by our troops in the East Indies, where the temperature of the barrack rooms have to be kept down by punkahs and damp kuss-kuss mats.

On the west coast we have a rainy season; there is also a periodical change of wind, as in the same latitudes in India; in effect a monsoon.

During the winter, spring, and summer, the up-stairs ward of the Colonial Hospital devoted to European sailors, chiefly of the French nation, is empty; whereas now in August, whilst I am writing, it is full of cases in every stage of fever. They are tended with care, and surrounded by comforts so different from the stifling holds of their respective vessels, now at anchor in harbour. This sight would be refreshing to the enlightened Administrator, who originated and carried through, after much opposition, the foundation of this establishment; and it also tends to prove the truth of the saying, "that the Gambia "is the finest climate in the world for nine months in the year, but the worst for "three."

GAMBIA.

* * * * *

Recapitulation.

Colonial Hospital	Cured	-	97
	Died	-	27
Gaol of Bathurst	Cured	-	85
	Died	-	4
Grand Total		-	213 European and Natives.

General Observations.

The export tax on the produce, which came into operation on the 1st January of this year, has been found to work very favourably, adding to the revenue some 2,000*l.*; it is considered more equitable than the 4 per cent. ad valorem on imports. The French merchants are contributing their share to the revenue; but as this reform in the taxation belongs more to the future Report on the Blue Book of 1863, I will not further dwell on this fiscal subject, only confining myself to the remark, that it is generally supposed that a year like the present, with a religious civil war around the settlement, raging for the last 18 months on both banks of the river, far above M'Carthy's Island, can scarcely be taken as a fair average year.

It has been a very difficult task to avoid being mixed up with the troubles of our neighbours, especially as the belligerents have latterly seized cattle the property of our neighbours; yet the captures have been made in all the excitement of war, and in ignorance, I really believe, of the property being British. The warriors, on being asked to return that which did not belong to their enemies, replied with reason and moderation, promising to repay the value of the stock in ground nuts next year. But our traders are not so reasonable; they talk of making reprisals if the Government does not at once help them. Indeed I had to remind one trader somewhat sharply, that when he traded beyond British jurisdiction it was quite on his own responsibility and risk and that if he attempts any coercive measures I should be compelled to arraign him under the Colonial Ordinance of May 27, 1853, distinctly forbidding, under a penalty, British subjects from taking service under any chief engaged in war.

* * * * *

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. (Signed) G. D'ARCY.
&c. &c. &c. Governor.

GOLD COAST.

No. 10.

GOLD COAST.

No. 10.

[Not received.]

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 11.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

(No. 132.)

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir P. E. WODEHOUSE, K.C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

Government House, Cape Town,
October 9, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,

I BEG now to transmit for your Grace's consideration the Blue Book for the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope for the year 1862. A year which may probably with justice be termed the most unfavourable for all classes of the inhabitants which has been experienced for a very considerable length of time. The reports of the Civil Commissioners will show that from one end of the Colony to the other the losses on the

crops from excessive drought and the ravages of insects, on the sheep from the drought and the severity of the following winter, on cattle and horses from the same causes and from epidemics, on the vines from oidium and unfavourable weather, in short on every branch of colonial industry, have been most ruinous. And although happily the course of the present year has been distinguished by most favourable seasons, the commercial distress resulting from past misfortunes presses heavily on the community, and compels us to regard the restoration of prosperity as a process of very gradual accomplishment. The revenue receipts for 1862 are set down at 716,488*l.* as against 748,866*l.* for 1861, thus exhibiting a comparative decrease of 32,377*l.* But a careful examination of the returns will show that the actual condition of the finances was more unfavourable, for among the receipts of 1862 we find set down an additional amount borrowed of 15,399*l.*, and an additional sum of 19,937*l.* for advances repaid; that is to say, of sums paid out on former years, and formally brought to account in 1862. Upon the whole, therefore, it may fairly be stated, that the revenue of 1862 fell short of that of 1861 by about 67,000*l.* The falling off in the receipts from land sales was very great. The state of the money market was such that a fair price could not be obtained for Crown lands, and the Government, therefore, abstained from holding profitless sales. The customs revenue was somewhat deficient, and indeed the only item on which there was a material advance was the transfer duties, attributable to an increase in the rates made by an Act passed in the session of 1861.

The statement of expenditure for 1862 gives an outlay of 683,792*l.*, as against one of 763,236*l.* for 1861, showing an apparent reduction of 79,444*l.*, principally under the heads of immigration, convict establishments, works and buildings, and loans repaid. But it is difficult within the limits of this Despatch to explain clearly the actual state of the finances of the Colony.

It is unfortunately beyond question that the current revenue is insufficient to meet the current expenditure, and that up to this time recourse has been had to loans as the simplest method of escaping from difficulties. In 1862, owing to a large loan having been raised in 1861, the year opened with a balance in the public chests of 61,522*l.* The year closed with a balance of only 4,046*l.* I have strongly pressed on the consideration of the Parliament the injury which the Colony must sustain from such a system of administration. My efforts have up to this time met with but little success; but I can scarcely suppose that the legislature, or their constituents, can long remain blind to what their best interests imperatively demand. They will but delude themselves if they act on a belief that any material reduction of expenditure can be effected. I have closely watched the course of events, and am satisfied that the revenue must be brought up to the cost of their present establishments. Public establishments have been brought into existence in various parts of the country, which, though undoubtedly affording considerable conveniences, might well have been postponed. But as they do exist, it is no longer in the power of the Government to suppress them, or to look to Parliament for any support in reducing these localities to their previous insignificancy.

It was not to be expected that in a time of such general depression the Legislature would be disposed to deal substantially with any large questions; and indeed it will be found that no Bills of importance were passed through the two Houses, with the exception of those authorizing the construction of three railways, under the guarantee of the colonial revenues. Even these, however, were passed in such a form as to deter capitalists from coming under engagements for the execution of the works; and the amending Bills passed during the session of this year have only authorized the Government to obtain surveys and estimates for the several lines to be submitted to Parliament in 1864.

In the course of the year 1862 Her Majesty's Government directed a very important change to be made in the distribution of the staff and troops composing the garrison of the Colony. They directed that Graham's Town, which had hitherto been the head quarters of the command, and at which a large number of the troops had been stationed, should be abandoned; that the troops should be moved forward into the neighbouring Colony of British Kaffraria; and that Cape Town should for the future be the station of the head quarters. Subsequently, on representations submitted to them, they admitted that King William's Town, in British Kaffraria, ought under the altered circumstances to become the head quarter station, as soon as accommodation could be provided there; but they declined in the meantime to assent to the retention of Graham's Town. At present, therefore, the main body of the troops are at the eastern limit of the command, while the officer in command and his staff are at the western extremity. I have thought it my duty to bring prominently under your Grace's notice the extreme inconvenience attending such an arrangement, and I look with confidence to the speedy adoption of measures calculated to replace our military establishments on a satisfactory footing.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

In conclusion, I have to observe that our relations with the several native tribes have throughout the year been very satisfactory, and I trust I may look forward with confidence to a continuance of the existing tranquillity.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.
&c. &c. &c.

NATAL.

NATAL.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SCOTT to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 126.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, Natal, November 2, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for this Colony for the past year, 1862.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. Revenue.—On comparing the gross amount of revenue as given in the tabular statement of the Blue Book for the past year with the revenue of the preceding year, 1861, there is an apparent decrease of 4,788*l*. This, however, does not exhibit the real financial position of the Colony, inasmuch as the mode of keeping the public accounts introduces entries both on the side of revenue and expenditure which give a fictitious magnitude to the yearly aggregates. The following statements show the real heads of revenue on which there has been an increase, and those on which there has been a decrease, as compared with the preceding year, 1861.

Heads of revenue on which there has been an increase.

	1861.	1862.	Increase.
Customs	37,471	40,672	3,200
Land Sales	1,498	2,720	1,222
Land Revenue	5,800	7,277	1,477
Auction Dues	2,175	2,407	232
Taxes (Native)	16,906	17,925	1,019
Postage	3,131	3,449	317
Fines, forfeitures, &c.	2,040	3,257	1,216
Fees of Office	1,120	1,356	236
		Increase	£8,919

Heads of revenue on which there has been a decrease.

	1861.	1862.	Decrease.
Port and Harbour Dues	1,481	1,477	4
Rents	6	1	5
Transfer Dues	13,587	7,021	6,565
Licences	5	0	5
Stamps	2,644	2,132	511
		Decrease	7,090

From the above statements it is seen that so far from there having been a falling off in the true and permanent sources of revenue there has been an increase of 1,829*l*. It will be observed that the chief decrease is under the head of transfer dues, and this arises from the circumstance that in the year 1861 an unusual amount was collected by reason of the formation of a company called the Natal Land and Colonization Company, which has had transferred to it from former proprietors a large extent of land, exceeding 240,000 acres. This decrease is therefore an accident rather than a real falling off in this source of revenue. From the following table, giving the actual amount collected for transfer dues from the year 1856 to 1862 inclusive, it will be observed that there has

been, apart from this accidental increase in 1861, a steady advance yearly in this item of revenue.

	£
Transfer Duties in 1856	1,805
Ditto 1857	2,585
Ditto 1858	2,374
Ditto 1859	4,552
Ditto 1860	5,721
Ditto 1861	13,587
Ditto 1862	7,021

It may therefore be fairly estimated that in transfer dues the amount collected in 1862 exhibits an ordinary advance of upwards of 1,000*l.*, and if this be added to the increases in the other items of revenue as shown above, viz., 8,919*l.*, the revenue of 1862, as compared with that of 1861, exhibits an advance of about 10,000*l.*

Expenditure.—The gross expenditure for the past year amounts to 113,237*l.*, being in excess of the gross revenue by a sum of 3,938*l.*

This excess of expenditure over revenue was met out of the balance in the Treasury, which at the commencement of the year was equal to 8,984*l.* The following statement exhibits the cost of each branch of the service, and the amount of revenue collected by each.

	£
Expenditure. Lieutenant Governor's Department	1,663
Revenue. None.	
Expenditure. Colonial Secretary	1,963
Revenue. Fees of office	11
Expenditure over revenue	1,952
Expenditure. Treasurer	642
Revenue, viz.: Land, auction duties, &c.	9,686
Revenue over expenditure	9,044
Expenditure. Secretary for Native Affairs, including the reserve of 5,000*l.* made by the Charter for native purposes	7,046
Revenue. Hut tax on natives	17,926
Revenue over expenditure	10,880
Expenditure. Auditor	900
Revenue. Fees of office	9
Expenditure over revenue	891
Expenditure. Surveyor-General	2,200
Revenue. Land sales, fees of office, survey fees, &c.	3,124
Revenue over expenditure	924
Expenditure. Registrar of Deeds	610
Revenue. Transfers, stamps, and fees of office	10,144
Revenue over expenditure	9,534
Expenditure. Colonial Engineer	1,042
Revenue. No fixed revenue	
Expenditure. Collector of Customs	2,047
Revenue. Customs duties	40,777
Revenue over expenditure	38,730

NATAL.

	£
Expenditure. Port office	2,640
Revenue. Port and harbour dues	1,477
Expenditure over revenue	1,163
Expenditure. Post office	4,845
Revenue	3,506
Expenditure over revenue	1,339
Expenditure.—Judicial, including the Supreme Court, Attorney-General, resident magistrates, sheriff, police, and gaols	18,077
Revenue. Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court	3,257
Expenditure over revenue	14,820
Expenditure. Executive Council	50
Revenue. None.	
Expenditure. Legislative Council	2,013
Revenue. None.	
Expenditure. Education	1,558
Revenue. School fees	47
Expenditure over revenue	1,511
Expenditure. Ecclesiastical grants	1,093
Revenue. None.	
Expenditure. Hospital and medical establishment	2,324
Revenue. Hospital fees	67
Expenditure over revenue	2,257
Expenditure. Queen's troops, yearly allowance	5,000
Revenue. None.	
Expenditure. Volunteers	679
Revenue. None.	
Expenditure. Public works, viz.:	
Construction of prisons	4,561
Construction of military posts	1,400
Construction of powder magazines	245
Repair of wharves	1,164
Engineers' store, tools, &c.	1,111
Improvement of Umkomanzi river mouth	582
Sundries, repairs, &c.	589
Construction of bridges	7,597
Formation and repair of roads	5,773
	23,022
Expenditure. Pensions	244
Expenditure. Immigation, European	6,929
Revenue. Repayments	1,146
Expenditure over revenue	5,783
Expenditure. Immigration, Indian coolies	922
Revenue. Repayments	53
Expenditure over revenue	869

		£
Expenditure.	Purchase of gunpowder, &c. - -	1,429
Revenue.	Sale of ditto - - - -	3,571
	Revenue over expenditure - -	2,142
Expenditure.	Gratuities to scientific institutions -	255
Expenditure.	Stationery, printing, translations, and petty expenses - - - - - -	1,758
Expenditure.	Cost of articles for London Exhibition -	1,141
Expenditure.	Contribution to Memorial to His Royal Highness the late Prince Consort - - -	500
Expenditure.	Sundry items - - - -	751

Imports and Exports.

2. There has been the usual steady increase in the export and import trade of the Colony.

	£
Value of exports for 1861 - - -	119,207
Ditto 1862 - - -	127,228
Increase -	8,021
Value of imports for 1861 - - -	402,689
Ditto 1862 - - -	449,469
Increase - -	46,780
Customs duties for 1861 - - -	37,337
Ditto 1862 - - -	40,529
Increase - -	3,192

The following table exhibits, from the year 1844 to 1862, the tonnage of vessels inwards and outwards, the value of the imports and exports, and the customs duties collected; and in order to show more readily at a glance the gradual advance in the commerce of the Colony, a summary of each is given for every five years.

ACCOUNT of SHIPPING and TRADE, INWARDS and OUTWARDS, from 1844 to 1862, with approximate STATEMENT for 1863.

Years.	Shipping inwards. Tons.	Summary for 5 years.	Value of imports.	Summary for 5 years.	Customs duties on imports.	Summary for 5 years.	Shipping outwards. Tons.	Summary for 5 years.	Value of total exports.	Summary for 5 years.
1844 -	1,831		41,141		4,041		1,858		11,387	
1845 -	2,781		40,592		3,416		2,441		10,400	
1846 -	3,528		41,958		3,511		3,678		17,143	
1847 -	3,226		46,981		3,803		3,226		14,377	
1848 -	4,166		46,204		4,705		3,761		10,867	
		15,532		216,876		19,476		14,964		64,174
1849 -	5,905		55,922		5,802		6,066		11,992	
1850 -	16,581		111,016		10,911		14,940		17,106	
1851 -	8,951		125,462		12,123		8,829		21,817	
1852 -	6,138		103,701		10,004		6,460		27,846	
1853 -	5,015		98,838		9,800		5,193		36,792	
		42,590		494,939		48,640		41,488		115,553
1854 -	8,229		122,492		10,864		7,823		43,661	
1855 -	3,705		86,551		8,612		4,287		52,073	
1856 -	5,007		102,512		10,227		5,149		56,563	
1857 -	8,117		184,549		14,627		7,973		82,497	
1858 -	11,025		172,832		15,905		10,690		100,587	
		36,083		668,936		60,235		35,922		335,381
1859 -	10,494		199,917		18,630		9,811		110,415	
1860 -	15,464		354,987		33,831		14,16 4		139,698	
1861 -	18,192		402,689		37,337		18,665		119,207	
1862 -	22,948		449,469		40,529		21,509		127,228	
1863* -	23,500		465,000		43,000		22,500		165,000	
		90,598		1,872,062		173,327		86,649		661,548

* The several items placed against 1863 are approximate only, but based upon actual returns for the first six months of the year.

NATAL.

Agriculture and Manufactures.

3. Sugar.—Amongst the products of the Coast District sugar is the most important. As is usual in all Colonies with regard to new undertakings, the planters have had to contend against many adverse circumstances, and especially from want of capital and the consequent high value of money. The uncertainty of the native labour, on which they have mainly had to depend, has also been a drawback to the more rapid extension of the cane cultivation. The minor obstacles are now, however, being overcome by greater experience, both in the cultivation of the cane and in the manufacture of the sugar. Capital is more abundant, and the establishment of several banks has greatly reduced the rate of discount and the general rate of money accommodation, and a supply of constant and certain labour is being provided by the introduction of Coolies from India. The cane crops of this year are large; the average yield of sugar per acre is equal to that obtained in any other sugar-growing Colony, and, all things considered, it may safely be assumed that this Colony will in progress of time export a large quantity of this staple article.

Owing to the consumption of the sugar in the Colony and the neighbouring republics, it has not yet formed a large item of the exports. The quantity manufactured and exported during the last three years has been:—

1860—Manufactured	-	1,505 tons.	Exported	-	1,218 tons.
1861— „	-	1,669 „	„	-	764 „
1862— „	-	2,344 „	„	-	846 „

The home consumption may now be considered as provided for, and the export during the present year will no doubt greatly exceed that of the past year. The sugar mills erected in 1861 were 42; in the past year, 1862, these were increased to 57 in number. A first-class sugar mill has been erected by the Government on the Umooti Native Mission Station, where 80 acres of cane will be fit for crushing this season, the whole of which has been planted by the native Kaffirs on the station. This mill has been erected by the Government, in accordance with that policy which seeks to raise the natives into higher industrial pursuits. It is under the superintendence of an agent of the Government; and the natives who cultivate the cane receive one half of the produce, the other half being retained by the Government to defray the annual expenditure, and to form a fund for the ultimate payment of the outlay incurred in the erection of the mill

This example has already had the effect of inducing some of the natives on another station to combine and purchase a small mill on their own account.

Coffee.—Although sugar will no doubt be the staple product of the coast lands, coffee is now attracting considerable attention. The coffee hitherto grown is pronounced to be of the finest flavour. The resident magistrate of the Inanda Division, where it is at present chiefly being grown, states that there is a yield of 7 cwt. per acre, which obtains a price of 70*s.* the cwt., or 24*l.* 10*s.* per acre. One obstacle to the extension of the growing of coffee is that no return is obtained for the first four years; but once the trees begin to yield, its cultivation may be carried on with little risk, trouble, or expense, the labour of 50 Coolies being considered sufficient for 100 acres.

It will most probably be grown on estates in combination with sugar, arrowroot, cotton, and other coast products. The quantity obtained last year was 33,314 lbs. It is an article of large consumption amongst the Dutch population of South Africa.

Arrowroot.—The cultivation and manufacture of arrowroot has declined. This is partly owing to its having failed to command as high a price in the London market as the arrowroot of the West Indies, and partly to a preference being given to the cultivation of other products. That hitherto made was manufactured by persons wanting in experience, and with rude machinery. Its yield per acre is very satisfactory, and those competent to form an opinion state that if its manufacture were improved, and brought up to that of other Colonies, the Natal arrowroot would not be inferior to the best.

Indigo.—The indigo plant grows wild in almost every part of the Colony. An attempt was made some years back to establish a factory, but owing to causes connected with the individuals who composed the small company, it was broken up, and its manufacture has not again been attempted.

Tobacco.—This has long been grown by the natives for their own use in the manufacture of their snuff, of which they consume very large quantities. It has also been occasionally grown by the colonists, and it is stated to be productive and profitable; it has not yet, however, received any serious attention.

Minor articles of coast produce.—The coast, having a semi-tropical climate, is capable of producing a large number of useful and valuable articles, some of which at present are cultivated for home consumption, but before these receive due attention, and become

articles of export, the population must be largely augmented, competition in the various industrial pursuits must increase, and labour be more abundant.

Cotton.—Various kinds of cotton have been grown in small quantities, both on the coast and inland. Some few years ago the natives were by the Government induced to undertake its cultivation, and a good deal of experience was gained, especially in regard to the soil and localities best suited for its growth. Its value in the English market was then very low, while at the same time the price of other native produce, such as maize, or, as it is here called, "mealies," was yearly increasing, and under these circumstances it became impossible to push on the cultivation of cotton. The scarcity of this staple, and the evident necessity there is for the English demand being supplied from other sources than America, has again given a prominence to the question whether it can be profitably grown in Natal. A large company has been organized in England for this purpose; ground is being broken up by means of steam ploughs; and the colonists are invited by the manager of the company to cultivate it concurrently with other produce on their farms, and seed for the purpose is given to them. One of the largest of the native tribes living near the seat of the Government, and in a locality suited for the growth of the cotton plant, has also been directed by the Government to undertake its cultivation, and this they are willingly doing. There are therefore reasonable expectations that no inconsiderable supply of cotton will soon be obtained, should no unforeseen circumstances arise. The sea-island kind, so far as it has been tested by small patches, grows remarkably well along the line of the sea coast, and the New Orleans and the commoner sorts are found to be best suited for the localities more inland. Seven bales of cotton grown by the natives were sold here two months ago by public auction, and realized 1*s.* 6*d.* per pound. A sugar planter on the coast raised last year a crop of ten acres, which it is stated sold for 400*l.*, and this year he has largely extended his plantation. While the cotton fetches its present high price in England there can be little doubt that it would be a most remunerative produce to the planter, but as the high price cannot long continue, it will be when the cotton has fallen to its ordinary value that the problem whether Natal can become a cotton-producing country will be solved. The colonists will have to depend chiefly on Coolie labour. Whatever cotton may be grown by the natives will of course be of their own labour; principally that of their women and children.

Hemp and Flax.—In the Midland Districts of the Colony there is abundance of wild hemp, which springs up as a weed, but no attention worthy of notice has yet been given to it. The growing of flax has recently been undertaken by a gentleman from Belfast, who has imported for its dressing the most improved machinery, and he is very sanguine of suceeeding.

Stock Farming.

4. Wool.—The attention of the farmers chiefly engaged in the breeding of stock, such as horses and horned cattle, has been drawn to the value of sheep.

Want of capital, and inexperience in the management of sheep in a new country, have prevented a rapid increase in this class of stock; but as both of these impediments are now being removed, the yearly progress is becoming more marked, and doubts as to the suitability of the Colony for the breeding of sheep have almost, if not entirely, disappeared.

It may be now safely assumed that the greater part of the Midland and Upper Districts are well adapted for sheep, and that consequently, among the other valuable staple exports of the country, wool grown in the Colony will, in a few years, become a large and important item. The number of sheep in the past year, 1862, is given as 122,425; that for the preceding year was 74,499. Many valuable rams and ewes of a superior breed have been imported from England. In the Upper Districts some of the grazing farmers have also commenced the breeding of the Angora goat.

Horses, horned cattle, &c.—With the exception of sheep, now rapidly increasing in numbers, the stock farming is chiefly confined to horses, a few mules, milch cows, and oxen. In former times, when the country now forming Natal was peopled with numerous native tribes, their greatest pride was to own large herds of horned cattle; and the face of the country, covered with almost unbroken pasturage, was thickly dotted with innumerable droves. The native tribes now living in the Colony have still large quantities; and the Dutch boers, who own farms of six or eight thousand acres each and who are graziers rather than agriculturists, possess a large amount of this species of stock. A very serious drawback to the breeding of horned cattle is a disease called lung sickness, which yearly carries off a considerable number. Inoculation is employed as a preventative, but it is generally agreed that for the disease itself there is no cure. When

NATAL.

first introduced into the Colony it committed great ravages, but it is now less common and virulent, and an impression prevails that it will ultimately disappear. Oxen are the only animals used by the colonists for drought; occasionally a waggon drawn by horses or mules is seen, but very rarely. A large quantity of the horned cattle bred in the Colony are therefore employed as draught oxen, and as they fetch a good price the breeder is well remunerated. The richer class of stock farmers have introduced from England, at great cost, valuable bulls and milch cows, which will no doubt soon improve the native breed. Horses are bred by several farmers, and these are also being greatly improved by imported animals. Unfortunately this species of stock has also its peculiar malady; it is called horse sickness, and is stated to be somewhat akin to the lung sickness of the horned cattle. It is a yearly visitant, but does not prevail over two or three months, nor does it extend to all parts of the Colony; it is most fatal on the coast. It was inconsiderable during the past year, and hopes are entertained that with better veterinary skill than the Colony now possesses, and with extended experience, the malady may be overcome. Mules are bred in moderate numbers, and are found to be very valuable. Already a sufficient number of draught oxen are obtained with some difficulty, and as the traffic of the Colony increases, mules will no doubt be used more extensively, as is the case in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope.

General Farming.

5. This industrial pursuit is chiefly carried on in the midland and upper parts of the Colony, and at present is not very extensive. A large portion of the alienated Crown lands is held by persons for speculation only, and is consequently unproductive; another large portion by the Dutch boers, in farms varying from 4,000 to 8,000 acres; and as these people are averse to agriculture, they, as a general rule, do not cultivate grain and other produce beyond what is needed for their own family use. Except their live stock, the produce brought by these people into the market is chiefly confined to butter and cheese.

Maize, or mealies, forms the staple food of the natives of South Africa, and it is cultivated largely by the tribes in Natal, both for their own use and for sale to the colonists, and is also grown by the farmers. All the grains cultivated in England grow remarkably well in Natal, and there is no impediment to their being extensively cultivated. Wheat is somewhat subject to rust, but not to such an extent as to be any serious drawback, or beyond what experience and skill may control, as in England. What is wanted to give an impetus to the cultivation of grain and other farming vegetable produce is that small class of farmers who, having a limited area of land, and only a small capital, will confine their labours to the cultivation of the soil. A considerable number of this class are now settled around the city of Pietermaritzburg, and they are yearly increasing in number. The high rate of transport will doubtless for many years prevent these small agriculturists from settling in the northern part of the Colony, a market easy of access being to them all important; but as the large farms become divided, and the population is less scattered, and augmented in number, this very useful class of farmers will, there can be no doubt, establish their homesteads at greater distances from the towns. At present Natal exhibits the anomaly of a country capable of producing any amount of grain, and yet being under the necessity of importing its wheat or flour. The quantity of wheat grown in the Colony in the past year is shown by the returns to have been only 4,043 muids.

Mines and Fisheries.

6. The only known mineral in Natal of any value is coal. The wild and broken country forming the immediate base of the Draakensberg may be said to be wholly unexplored, and if metals are at any future time discovered in the country they will most probably be found in that locality. The coal of Natal is of two kinds, anthracite and bituminous, and the latter is proved to be of excellent quality. Unfortunately, however, it is situated in the northern part of the Colony only, and hence the deposits which outcrop in numerous localities have not been considered as of great present value. Recently, they have been examined by a coal-mining engineer from England, and he is so impressed with their value that he has submitted a scheme for the formation of a railway from the port to the coal deposits. At some future time, when the Colony becomes intersected with railways, as it must, the coal of Natal will no doubt become of very considerable commercial value; but whether this future time is near or distant is a question on which, in a report of this kind, it would be unwise to offer an opinion. The bay of Natal, and the whole of the sea along the coast, teems with fish of various kind. The bay is just

within the southern limits of the line in which herrings are found. In 1860 a shoal of these fish entered the bay itself. They are only now seen at the proper season outside. No attention has yet been bestowed upon fishing as an industrial pursuit, nor is it likely that any fisheries will be established until the population of the Colony is largely augmented, and there is greater competition for a livelihood.

Trade, &c.

7. The exports of the Colony for the past year, as already stated, were of the value of 127,228*l.*, while the value of the imports is given as 449,469*l.* This large difference between exports and imports, if considered by the theoretical rules of political economy, would tell against the Colony; but many causes which cannot now be examined satisfactorily account for this unusually large difference. It must be borne in mind that Natal does not import for its own consumption alone; it is estimated that fully one third of the imports are absorbed in its trade with the interior, that the natives of the Colony, upwards of 200,000, who are now becoming considerable consumers of imports, do not at present cultivate articles of export, and that the production of sugar, wool, coffee, and other articles of export, which the Colony is proved to be capable of raising, is yet, comparatively speaking, in its infancy.

Wool.—The chief article of export obtained from the neighbouring Dutch republics is wool. This is yearly increasing. The greater mass of the wool produced in these republics will, without doubt, be drawn to the port of Natal. It is in fact the natural outlet for the produce of those countries.

Ivory, Furs, &c.—The more inland trade which flows into the Colony consists of ivory, ostrich feathers, and fur skins. This trade fluctuates in its comparative yearly value, but exhibits none the less a steady increase.

Banks.

8. The first bank was established in the Colony in the year 1854. Its maximum capital was fixed at 100,000*l.*, but 10,000*l.* was at that time deemed to be a sufficient capital in the first instance for the banking requirements of the Colony. At the present time there are five banks; viz.:—

Natal Bank.—The oldest, incorporated by a local law, having a nominal capital of 100,000*l.*, of which 80,000*l.* is paid up. This bank carries on its business in Pietermaritzburg, and has a branch in D'Urban.

Commercial and Agricultural Bank, incorporated by a local law.—Nominal capital 100,000*l.*, of which 50,000*l.* is paid up. This bank carries on its business in D'Urban, and has a branch bank in Pietermaritzburg.

Colonial Bank of Natal, not incorporated by law.—Nominal capital 50,000*l.*, carries on its business at Pietermaritzburg. No branch bank.

D'Urban Bank.—A private bank, carried on by Messrs. Hartley and Co. at D'Urban; no branch.

The London and South African Bank, incorporated by Royal Charter.—Nominal capital 1,000,000*l.*, of which is subscribed 400,000*l.* Has a branch bank in this Colony at D'Urban.

The Standard Bank of British South Africa, incorporated under the Imperial Limited Liability Act, nominal capital, 2,000,000*l.*, has during the present year opened a branch in D'Urban, and another branch of the bank is also to be opened in Pietermaritzburg.

In consequence of the increased number of banks, and the introduction of capital into the Colony from other sources, the very high value of money which has obtained for many years has now decreased, and the rate of discount charged by the banks has fallen from twelve to eight per cent.

Hitherto money invested and secured by a mortgage on land readily obtained 15 per cent. and 20 per cent., and even higher rates have been obtained in other monetary transactions.

The following Joint Stock Companies also carry on their business in the Colony, viz.:—

The Natal Fire Assurance and Trust Company, established by a local Ordinance in 1854.—This company carries on various branches of business, and acts as a loan and investment society; it also discounts bills to a limited extent.

The Natal Land and Colonization Company.—This company was incorporated under the Imperial Limited Liability Act in 1860. It owns lands to the extent of 247,839 acres. At present it has not introduced into the Colony any immigrants. Its chief operations have been the introduction of capital obtained in England by the issue of debentures,

NATAL.

and its re-investment by mortgage in the Colony; and the company has very recently by public advertisement offered to lend money to the coast planters for the purpose of enabling them to bring Coolies from India.

Natal Cotton Company.—This company was recently formed in England, and has already made a very large purchase of land in different parts of the Colony.

It proposes to cultivate cotton on its own account, and to assist with loans of money those farmers and planters who may be willing to undertake the growing of this staple. It is also stated that the company proposes to form coffee plantations. The company has imported steam ploughs and other suitable machinery, and has already commenced the breaking up of the land.

Natal Central Railway Company.—This company proposes to construct a line of railway leading from the port to the seat of Government, provided the Colonial Government will give a guarantee of six per cent. per annum on the outlay. The line has been surveyed, and has been found to be between 70 and 80 miles in length. It has been presumed that it may be constructed for about 600,000*l.*

Owing to the long prevailing want of circulating capital in the Colony, the resort to the money accommodation afforded by the banks has been very extensive, but the precise amount cannot be ascertained. By the annual return made to the Government by the Registrar of Deeds it appears that the mortgages registered in his books at the close of the past year, 1862, were 1,813, amounting in the aggregate to 699,771*l.*; and by the annual report of the Master of the Supreme Court it is shown that there were 50 cases of insolvencies, some for trifling amounts, but, nevertheless, giving in the aggregate a sum of 99,906*l.* Considering the population and the trade of the Colony, this amount must be regarded as very large. No doubt these failures are in a great part to be attributed to over speculation, and the very general system of credit that began with the first settlement of the Colony, and which, once begun, requires much time to get rid of. These insolvencies do not appear to have any serious effect. The individuals who fail soon recover, and in many instances they rise like the Phœnix from its ashes.

Population.

9. The returns in the Blue Book give the white population at 13,990, and the native population at 170,051. This is incorrect. No census has been taken; but it is probable that the white population is not far short of 18,000; and we are aware, from the collection annually made of the native hut tax, which permits a very close approximate estimate to be formed of the number of the coloured people, that the native population is a little over 200,000.

Immigration, European.

10. The scheme under which a limited number of immigrants are introduced each year into the Colony from Great Britain continues to work satisfactorily. Under this plan any individual resident in the Colony may nominate any person whom they may desire to bring out, on giving security for the repayment to the Government of a sum of 10*l.* for each immigrant one year after the arrival of the immigrant, and the Government thereupon provide a passage. The ultimate cost to the Government is about 5*l.* each immigrant. These people being brought out on the application of their friends or relatives already living in the Colony, provision for their employment is generally made previous to their arrival, and they are soon comfortably settled and prosperous. This plan does not introduce a large number of immigrants annually; but, as has been often stated in other communications, the Colony is not yet in a position to admit the influx of a large number of promiscuous and poor immigrants. The number of immigrants who arrived during the past year, 1862, was about 462.

Coolies from India.

In the years 1859 and 1860 about 1,300 coolies were brought from India, chiefly for the service of the sugar and coffee planters. These have been found of great use, and have given general satisfaction, and the coolies themselves are contented. The cost of their introduction was, however, somewhat large, being upwards of 18*l.* per adult, and this was found to press heavily upon the employers. With the view of relieving the planters from this large and immediate outlay, a law was passed during the last session of the Legislative Council, by which Coolies can be introduced on the payment by each employer of an anual sum of 2*l.* 10*s.* for each coolie during the period of his assignment. By this scheme the planter is not called upon to pay on the arrival of the Coolies a large and burdensome sum of money before he obtains any return from their labour; the

repayment to the Government by annual instalments permits him to increase the number of his labourers more rapidly at a moderate outlay, and a proportionate impetus is given to the extension of his plantation. Under this law the Government have ultimately to pay a sum of about 4*l.* on each Coolie; but considering the many benefits which the colonists generally derive from this increased supply of useful labour, this payment out of the general revenues on account of each Coolie introduced is considered to be equitable to all parties. During the present year, and under the law above mentioned, a large number of applications have been made to the Government for the introduction of additional coolies; about 500 have already arrived, and a requisition has been made on the Coolie Agent of this Government, resident at Madras, for a total number of about 2,000. It is anticipated that with the progress now being made in the sugar and coffee plantations, 1,000 coolies per annum may for some years be probably required. The general demand for labour necessarily increases with the yearly progress of the Colony. Hitherto this has been met by the labour obtained from the natives, with the exception of the small number of Coolies introduced as above stated in 1859 and 1860, although certainly not to the extent of the wishes of the colonists. The number of natives who now enter into the service of the white inhabitants during each year is estimated at about 20,000, and this number will no doubt increase yearly, as it has hitherto done; but considering that the natives are themselves agriculturists to the extent of their own wants, and even beyond, and that they are most of them owners of cattle, it would be unreasonable to suppose that an unlimited amount of labour can be drawn from them. The ultimate arrangement will no doubt be that the coast planters must carry on their labours chiefly by coolies, and then the more moderate demands of other colonists will be supplied from the natives.

Legislation.

11. Twenty-five laws were passed during the year 1862. Of these seven were financial, regulating the revenue and expenditure of the Colony; three were private laws; and the remaining 15 for general purposes. The objects for which these latter were passed are sufficiently given in the titles enumerated in the table inserted in the Blue Book, and do not call for particular notice in this report.

Public Works.

12. The sum appropriated for the construction and repair of public works is each year increased in amount. The requirements of a young Colony like Natal for this branch of public expenditure is, and will be for years to come, very great, and the amount annually disbursed is only limited by the revenue available for this service. In a former portion of this report the expenditure for the past year for public works has been classified, and exhibits a total of 23,022*l.*, or nearly one quarter of the real revenue of the year. It will be seen that 7,597*l.* has been appropriated for the construction of bridges; 5,773*l.* for the formation and repair of roads; and 4,561*l.* for the building of prisons. The expenditure of 23,022*l.* above mentioned is exclusive of the sum now annually expended in carrying out the improvements of the harbour, estimated at a total of 165,500*l.*, and which is provided for by a loan specially raised for this work.

Education.

13. In 1859 a salaried Superintendent of Education was appointed. Under the very zealous care of this gentleman a regular system has been established, which is working most satisfactorily. A detailed report of this officer is inserted in the Blue Book. 49 public schools, scattered over the Colony, are now in operation. Two of these are strictly Government schools, where children are educated on the payment of a very small fee, and many without any payment; the other schools are supported by subscriptions, and by a Government grant in aid. The average number of pupils at most of this latter class of schools is small, but this arises from the circumstance that the population of the Colony is very scattered, and the consequent impossibility of bringing the children together in larger masses. Amongst the Dutch population in the northern counties, who possess very large farms, and whose homesteads are widely apart, it has been found impossible to have a fixed school even, and hence the expedient has been resorted to of having itinerant teachers, who, under the control of the Superintendent of Education, hold schools, first at one farmer's house and then at another's, to which the various farmers in the neighbourhood send their children, making arrangements with the farmer at whose house the school is temporarily held for their board. A High school has also been recently established in Pietermaritzburg, and is supported at the cost of the Government, the pupils admitted being charged an annual fee of 10*l.* This school has been formed as a

NATAL.

temporary measure, until the collegiate institutions, for the foundation of which provision was made by a law passed in 1861, shall have been established.

Volunteers.

14. Volunteer cavalry corps have long been established in the Colony. Recently several other corps have been formed, some of which are infantry. There are now nine distinct corps, consisting in the aggregate of 625 men, of whom 300 are cavalry. They are armed with the short Enfield rifle, obtained on loan from the Imperial Government; but as these weapons are not well suited to mounted men, many of the cavalry have, at their own cost, supplied themselves with breech-loading carbines. There is a very general desire that every encouragement should be given to promote and maintain this system of voluntary enrolment, and a sum is annually voted by the legislature for prizes, by which a great impetus has been given to rifle shooting. There is, however, a large number of the colonists who do not join in this movement; and that ardour with which many persons first enrol themselves is found to cool under the routine duties of drill. Time is also very valuable to every colonist, and there is wanting that class of persons, having independent means and adequate leisure, who give such valuable support to the volunteer movement in older countries; and hence the question is often mooted, whether it may not become expedient to pass a militia law, not so much, however, for the purpose of organizing a body of militia as to give support to the volunteer movement, and to assist in maintaining the strength and efficiency of the corps already established.

Mounted Police.

15. In 1861 a law was passed authorizing the formation of an armed and mounted police corps, and under which it was contemplated to raise a body of about 200 men. A corps of this description will no doubt prove of great service, but it would be imprudent at once to incur so great an annual outlay as would be the case were this corps at once raised to its full strength, and hence it has been deemed politic to enlist only a small number, gradually, as the revenues of the Colony will prudently admit to be increased.

A fine body of young men, enlisted from the cavalry and metropolitan police in England, have been obtained, 30 in number. They are well mounted, and armed with the breech-loading Whitworth carbine and revolver pistols. They are maintained under military drill, and in case of need can be employed in conjunction with Her Majesty's troops.

To comment upon the many other branches of the public service, such as hospitals and scientific institutions, postal communications, &c., would greatly extend this report. I will therefore only remark, in conclusion, that each of these have had such improvements made in connexion with them as to keep pace, as far as practicable, with the growing requirements of the Colony. Much, however, remains to be done to place the various institutions of the Colony on a more extended system, which requires both time and greater pecuniary means. In conclusion, it may be remarked that, viewed generally, the position of the Colony continues to be satisfactory, and that there is no reason to doubt that the annual progress hitherto made will continue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. SCOTT.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Questions proposed by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and Answers by the Secretary for Native Affairs, October 16, 1863.

1. What is the present number and condition of the natives inhabiting the Colony of Natal, and what progress of intelligence, or increase of comfort, or decrease of barbarous customs, is perceptible among them?
2. To what extent do the natives confine themselves to their locations?
3. What is the present nature and practical working of the machinery for their government, independently of the administration of justice among them; and how is justice administered?
4. What is their prevailing feeling towards the whites?
5. What bond of union exists between refugees and the native inhabitants of the Colony, and do any of the refugees keep up their relationship with the Zulu country?
6. What is the average annual number of refugees who seek, under ordinary circumstances, an asylum in the Colony; and has that number visibly diminished since the registration system commenced?
7. What were the original powers of the chiefs, and what under the British Government?

Answer to Question 1.—The native population of the Colony of Natal, as estimated from the returns of the hut tax collection of last year, amount to 209,950 souls, and their present condition is such as, taking into account their past, could scarcely be expected from the 17 years of quiet which they have enjoyed. Besides being orderly and obedient to the authority of Government, as they are universally described to be by the magistrates over them, they have made no inconsiderable advance in civilized ideas and habits. A large proportion of the young men go out to service with the whites, to the extent, at least, of 20,000 annually, and the natives generally have adapted themselves with wonderful facility to the mercantile habits of the white colonists. This in itself is a step of no small importance, since it suggests to their minds honest and legitimate modes of acquiring wealth, and consequently it is now common for a native to go to service or enter upon a trading speculation when he finds it necessary to satisfy a want or wishes to indulge a fancy. A remarkable instance of their ready and complete adoption of European notions of trade is to be found in the thorough revolution which their own old system of barter has undergone. Formerly, when, for instanee, a cow changed hands among them, the consideration given was recoverable if the animal died within the circle of the seasons; now payment and delivery complete the transaction, as among Europeans.

All their more barbarous customs are modified; the more serious, such as clashed with the supreme authority of a Government, by Government regulation; and others by the natural effect of their contact with civilization, and the altered circumstances caused by their position. Of course there still exists among them habits and customs very much at variance with our civilized ideas, but these are being gradually acted upon and corrected.

The whole of the numerous tribes look to the Government as their supreme head. This was for some time a practical difficulty, while the Government found it impossible to govern them efficiently, except through their own institutions and chiefs, the natives themselves found it difficult to understand that these were but the instruments of a higher power. To accomplish this, time, and perseverance in a course calculated to show it, without unduly shocking their prejudices, have been successful. At an early period the supreme power was declared transferred to the Lieutenant-Governor.

All prerogatives, whether of a more practical or of a merely ceremonial character, peculiarly belonging to independent chiefs, became lawful to those in Natal only by the special permission of the Lieutenant-Governor delegating to them the authority for the occasion. One or two tribes have been broken up, and their chiefs deposed, who perversely disregarded the supremacy of the Government; and now there no longer exists any doubt as to the relative positions of all concerned. As regards their political position, therefore, it is more satisfactory than could have been expected in so short a time, after the violent convulsions their history shows them to have lately undergone.

It has been a received doctrine that they are naturally blood-thirsty and savage in their character, and nomadic in their habits. This belief has evidently originated from the imperfect acquaintance which most white men have with their past history, and from judging by the events which occurred so shortly before their contact with civilization, and the cruel policy still pursued by the Zulu chiefs. No doubt the Zulus show an utter disregard of the value of human life, but investigation has shown that this is a peculiarity which was introduced by Chaka, and was the means used by him to raise the Zulus from an inconsiderable and tributary tribe to the importance it afterwards assumed in South-eastern Africa. Before him the numerous tribes in Natal were neither warlike, bloodthirsty, nor nomadic. They were too closely wedged together either to ramble about or to make war, except on a very small scale. They cannot be held accountable for the misery brought upon them by a series of exterminating invasions, and the dissolution of all natural ties resulting therefrom. Their peculiarity is, that they are essentially an agricultural people, and therefore inclined to obedience and quiet.

Their ideas of comfort are also changed. When their place of residence was doubtful, when property and even life were uncertain, it was the interest of every man to encumber himself with as little personal property as possible. To be ready to fly, and have a safe rock or bush to fly to, were the great objects in times such as most of them had witnessed. Comfort was little thought of; but since their altered condition in respect of security, not only to life but to property, considerations of personal comfort and ornamentation have taken the place of those of mere self-preservation. They have become consumers of manufactured articles to a considerable extent. There is scarcely a man or woman in the Colony who does not contribute indirectly to the revenue, by satisfying some entirely new want. Cotton and woollen goods have supplanted the old skin kaross, and their own rude ornaments have been superseded by the beads and trinkets supplied by civilized commerce. But a greater step than this has been taken, for in their huts are frequently to be found iron and other manufactures suitable for household purposes, also supplied by the white trader.

And while this effect has been produced on the general population, many individuals of them have achieved a much higher position; one in which they compete with the intelligence and skill of the white man. Some, thanks to the training they have received at mission stations or in colonial families, have become skilful artisans; purchasers of landed property, on which many have erected substantial houses; contractors for the erection of buildings for white people, and even employers of white skill itself. They have a full knowledge of the value of money, and evince altogether a great aptitude for a higher class of employment than mere manual labour. Those who have been raised to this extent exhibit a strong desire for the education of their children, because they find the want of it in themselves circumscribes their own exertions; and the remarkable facility with which native children acquire knowledge has been observed by all who have been engaged in their tuition.

The Government has been anxious to encourage habits of industry among the natives, and for this purpose has made grants in aid to mission institutions out of the reserve fund, on condition that it be expended in some kind of industrial training. It has devoted a large expenditure out of this fund to one of these establishments in the erection of a sugar mill, because the land occupied by

NATAL.

the natives was especially adapted to the cultivation of sugar, but could not be made available from their not possessing the means. It appeared to be a favourable opportunity to encourage steady industry. The natives engaged to cultivate the cane upon lands to which they had already received legal title. Their missionary strongly recommended the expenditure, and the Lieutenant-Governor advanced the necessary sum from the reserve fund for the erection of the mill, receiving a certain proportion of the sugar to cover the expense, and eventually reimburse the fund. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to warrant a decided opinion as to its success, but so far the natives show a commendable industry in cultivation, and there is every hope that the experiment will be successful. In the meantime three natives at another station, prompted by this example, have formed a co-partnership, and have themselves purchased sugar manufacturing machinery, driven by steam, to erect on land to which they have also received legal title. This last circumstance is most satisfactory, as showing that some of the natives are beginning to see that to hold their position, they must compete with the white man on his own terms, and must help themselves as white men do. Such investments have also politically a strong conservative tendency.

Polygamy is an ancient institution among the native tribes. They say they were created with it, and it is still practised among them. It is a system with which, of necessity, all their laws, customs, habits, and ideas are bound up. It is one which time only can abrogate, because both men and women would equally oppose any violent attempt to destroy it, and morality would suffer more from the effects of such violence than leaving it to the gradual extirpation which natural causes and judicious but indirect measures will most probably soon bring about. The Lieutenant-Governor, in his capacity of supreme chief, has already made serious modifications in regard to it. One is, that every marriage shall be final, as regards the parents of the girl; and the other, that a widow may marry whom she pleases, without reference to her guardian. These are two very important alterations in their old customs, and because they were reasonable the natives have quietly acquiesced in them. Further innovations will undoubtedly be made as opportunity offers, with the view of effectually but judiciously checking polygamy. One of these has for some time been contemplated; that is, to make the legality of every native marriage depend upon a full and clear declaration at the time by the woman of her personal consent. Practically the effect has been the same whenever an appeal for protection has been made to authority; but as yet it has not been thought prudent to base the legality of the marriage upon such specific declaration. The importance of this step will be better understood when it is known that before the British Government took possession of Natal a father had the power of coercing his child, even to the extremity of putting her to death if she disobeyed him in the matter of marriage. Since then, however, no coercion has been allowed, and whenever brought to the notice of the authorities has been punished. The effect of even this check has caused the natives frequently to complain that the women have been made their masters.

Question 2.—To what extent do the natives confine themselves to their locations?

Answer.—The natives inhabiting two thirds of the Colony were alone provided for by locations. Those inhabiting the other third, and perhaps also comprising the same proportion of population, were not so provided for, although they inhabited the country. This arose from the Native Location Commissioners having had their operations suspended by the measures of Sir Harry Smith, Governor of the Cape Colony, on his visit to Natal in 1848, before they had proceeded to recommend land reserves for the natives there residing. The consequence is that south of the Umkomanzi river the natives are all residing on Crown lands not as yet specially set apart for them. Surveys have, however, been made, with the view of including these people in the general measure which is being discussed for securing to them their lands.

In other parts of the Colony the natives look upon their locations as their homes, and occupy them fully. There are many also who occupy private farms as tenants, paying rent; and a few inhabit Crown lands, where the operation of the law which prohibits squatting has not reached them, or where they may have been placed, for special reasons, by the Government, such as forming protection against Bushmen depredations upon white farmers.

Question 3.—What is the present nature and practical working of the machinery for their government, independently of the administration of justice among them by the resident magistrates; and how is justice administered?

Answer.—The machinery of native government is in point of fact the system found existing among the natives on the establishment of the Government in Natal, so adapted as to transfer all supreme authority previously enjoyed by independent chiefs to the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor, in his capacity of supreme chief; and to this is added the Secretary for Native Affairs and the several magistrates, the latter in their capacity of administrators of native law. The Secretary for Native Affairs answers, in the native system, to the principal Induna or Prime Minister, and the magistrates to the Indunas or Rulers of Districts, to whom are transmitted all the orders of the supreme chief, through the principal Induna, and by whom all those orders are communicated to the native chiefs and minor native authorities residing within his jurisdiction.

By this system all the efficient machinery of the native system of Government, and which is based upon the wholesome principle of an extended mutual responsibility, is adapted and made available by the Government.

The detail of these authorities is as follows, commencing from the lowest in regular gradation upwards, and each is responsible in the first instance to the authority above him:—

1st. The head of a family.
2nd. The head of a kraal or village,—a collection of families.
3rd. The head of several kraals.
4th. The Induna of a territorial division or district, inhabited by a section of a tribe.
5th. The principal Induna.
6th. The chief of the tribe.

7th. The magistrate of the county or division, in his capacity of native officer.
8th. The Secretary for Native Affairs.
9th. The supreme chief, being the Lieutenant-Governor for the time being.

By means of this gradation an order from the supreme chief is at once systematically and effectually promulgated, and the whole of the native population fully understand the several links which connect them with the same head as that which is acknowledged by their white fellow subjects.

The administration of justice follows the same principle. The native chiefs have the right to adjudicate in all civil cases between members of their own tribes, or where one of them is the defendant in any suit, and to punish for small municipal offences. Their decisions may, however, be appealed against, to the magistrate of the county, and so on upwards, until the question is decided by the Lieutenant-Governor and Executive Council; but it frequently happens that a native will prefer passing his chief, and go at once to the magistrate. The usual practice of the latter is, however, to refer the case back to the chief, in order that he may have the benefit of the native view of the matter, should the case ultimately come before him for judgment.

But all serious criminal charges against natives have for some time past been tried, according to the ordinary criminal law of the Colony, before the Supreme Court, and minor ones between native and native before the magistrates, in their capacity of administrators of native law.

The effect of this arrangement is much more important and is a greater step than its mere statement seems to convey. It required gradual and careful perseverance, and many years have been consumed in attaining the result. It will be observed that by leaving the adjudication of civil disputes between natives themselves to be adjudicated by the chiefs, subject to appeal to the magistrates, a proper and harmless jurisdiction was left in their hands, and the dignity of the chief is saved from any rude shock. Native ideas, if right in such matters, are very much guided by their own peculiar customs and habits, and none are better able to understand these than the chiefs; but where any particular view of the bearing of these customs worked a manifest injustice, felt by the native himself, an appeal to the magistrate would in all probability afford redress, and lead to a modification of the custom, or a correct view of its bearing.

But the removal of all criminal jurisdiction to the hands of responsible officers of Government is in point of fact placing in their hands the whole of the details of native management, and forms the great link between the ordinary institutions of the Government and the native population. It must be observed that all the more serious criminal offences, such as murder, rape, arson, &c., have been transferred to the Supreme Court of the Colony, to be tried under the general criminal law, and in accordance with civilized usages and rules of evidence, in the same manner as if such crimes had been committed by a white man; while minor crimes, if committed by one native on another, are tried by the magistrate under native law.

All cases between black and white, whether criminal or civil, are also tried in the courts of the Colony, in accordance with the law of the white man.

The effect of this is the gradual adaptation of the principles of civilized law to all crime, as well as to all civil disputes. Crimes which no prejudice or custom can justify have been at once made liable before tribunals governed by the highest principles of civilized law, while minor criminal offences, for which probably some extenuation might be found in old habits and customs, have been left to be dealt with by the magistrates under the more convenient native mode of adjudication, rules of evidence, and law.

By such an arrangement the native mind is being year by year educated on questions of right and wrong, and fitted for such modifications and changes in their management as circumstances may require. Without some such process, every alteration would seem to them a rude innovation, and possibly endanger the peace of the Colony, but by means of this cautious advance the administration of justice among them has hitherto been successfully and fully carried out.

Question 4.—What is their prevailing feeling towards the whites?

Answer.—The natives generally continue to look up to the whites as a superior class of beings. A sense of the great benefits conferred on them by their presence is still strong in their minds. They feel that they are protected from the recurrence of such destitution and suffering as so effectually dispersed them a few years ago, and a sense of obligation and gratitude is observable in all the older and more thinking portion of the native population; but there have been occasions, when political agitation has run high among the whites, that apprehension and distrust have very plainly prevailed. Unhappily native questions have chiefly been the subject of such agitation, and the usual accompanying violent and unguarded language has become known to the natives. The effect of this has been a belief that the whites would oppress them were it not for the restraint imposed by the Government. This is the feeling that exists among them as a class.

Individually the relations between the races are as a general rule satisfactory. Those of masters and servants, sellers and buyers, are regulated by wholesome competition, and disputes are settled by the magistrates, on reference to them. Those of landlord and tenant are becoming every day more fully understood and recognized by the natives, so that altogether, except for the distrust caused by political agitation on native questions, the feeling towards the whites is satisfactory.

Question 5.—What bond of union exists between refugees and the native inhabitants of the Colony, and do any of the refugees keep up their relationship with the Zulu country?

Answer.—Very little political danger need be apprehended from refugees, because, as a general rule, they are but members of tribes already in the Colony, and who anciently occupied it. The sudden revolution of 1839–40, that enabled the majority of these tribes to place themselves under the Boers, on land formerly occupied by them or their forefathers, or other special circumstances, probably did not admit of their joining them at the time. The Zulus punish all deserters with death, and

NATAL.

great vigilance is used to prevent desertions, so that it is usually only on the pressure of some great personal danger that the risk of flight is encountered. The great majority of ordinary refugees are of this class, and between them and the Zulu country there is no relationship of any kind kept up, except, perhaps, a message to a relative left behind, when a safe opportunity should occur to send it.

There is, however, a small class of political refugees between whom there is a bond of union. These were driven into the Colony by the Zulu revolutionary movements of December 1856, and some since. These refugees were the defeated partisans of one of Panda's sons, who contested with Cetywayo the right to the succession. In the battle that decided the question, the defeated son, Umb-alazi, was killed, and a considerable number of men were forced into the Colony. Among them was Umkungo, the brother of the deceased prince, and his mother. Although the refugees from that battle were estimated the first week at 4,000, a large number at once returned to the Zulu country, on hearing of the amnesty granted to their comrades; and the magistrates returns show that only about 500 remained. These have adhered to the young prince and his mother. Among them there is the bond furnished by the presence of Umkungo, and there is reason to believe that by them there is a private relationship kept up with some sections of the Zulus in Zulu land. It is known that Umkungo is Panda's favorite son, and there is little doubt that his presence in this Colony furnishes a hope to a portion of the Zulu people that he will some day be their king.

Between these refugees and the other native inhabitants of the Colony there is, however, no bond of union or sympathy whatever. They fear and dislike the Zulus, and would much rather contribute to their downfall than to the reconstruction of their former power.

Umkungo was a boy about 12 years of age when he entered the Colony with his mother in 1857. He was placed under the care of the Lord Bishop of Natal, and was for several years an inmate of the institution for training native lads established by his Lordship at his residence, near the seat of Government. He made considerable progress in learning to read and write, and is the first Zulu prince who can boast of those accomplishments. He is an amiable fat boy of mild disposition, not likely to create much political trouble, except as the instrument of more designing persons; but his mother, who was Panda's favorite wife, and with whom he at present resides, is a clever intriguing woman, who will not let slip any opportunity for aggrandizing herself and her son.

Question 6.—What is the average annual number of refugees who seek, under ordinary circumstances, an asylum in this Colony, and has that number visibly diminished since the registration system commenced?

Answer.—Including those forced in by political convulsions, the annual average number of refugees, as shown by the magistrates' returns for the last ten years, has been about 600. From what has before been explained on the subject, it will be evident that no such measure as registration could have the effect of preventing the influx of refugees from the Zulu country. There is, in the first place, the attraction of family ties to tempt them through to join their relations, and every favourable opportunity to do this will be taken advantage of; but the great risk to be encountered will limit the attempts to such opportunities. The Zulus never try a man for any alleged offence. It is sufficient that he is accused, and that the chief is persuaded of his being a dangerous or obnoxious subject, or that he intends to desert to Natal. Sanction is then secretly given for his destruction, in which is usually involved that of all his family, and an armed party is sent to carry out the decision. It frequently happens that some intimation of his intended fate reaches him in time to make him brave the risk of escaping, and he succeeds in entering the Colony. Many, however, have been overtaken on the river boundary, and had their wives and children murdered before they could reach the opposite bank, the superior activity only of the men enabling them to escape. Equally desperate is the case of the political refugee. With certain death following him, it is not likely that he would prefer losing his life to the risk of becoming an assigned labourer for three years, whatever his former rank or wealth may have been. There is no doubt that, apart from the attraction of family ties and the incidents of political convulsions, this Government is to the general Zulu population the more popular of the two, and that the effect of the refugee regulations, that is, the return to the Zulu authorities of all cattle brought into the Colony by refugees, on their being demanded, and the registration and assignment of refugees as labourers for three years, has kept up the Zulu power, and prevented flight into this Colony, except upon the most pressing necessity. If these were removed, especially the former of the two, I believe that the Zulu power would very soon crumble to pieces.

Question 7.—What were the original powers of the chiefs, and what under the British Government?

Answer.—The chiefs of tribes originally possessed absolute power over the lives and property of their subjects, and enjoyed all the immunities and privileges of such a position. The only limit to the exercise of this power was the necessity for conciliating public opinion, more or less in proportion to the resources for coercion they might possess in a standing army.

Where this engine did not exist, the most efficient instrument was, accusations of witchcraft. These, skilfully managed, were always sufficiently potent to overthrow the most powerful subject and ruin the most wealthy family. As a political engine, it was stronger and safer than an army, because it secured the concurrence of the people, and in most cases was made to appear to be a reluctant concession to them by the chief, when in point of fact he was the originator of the persecution himself.

Formerly desertion from one chief to another was looked upon as a description of treason, because it weakened and thereby endangered the abandoned tribe.

In the Colony of Natal, however, these things are changed. All the supreme powers are transferred to the safe keeping of the head of the government. Political accusations of witchcraft have long ceased to be made, because there can now be no object in making them. The chiefs have no longer the right of assembling their tribes in arms, except by the direction of the supreme chief. The

removal of persons from one tribe to another, or one locality to another, is now a matter under the direct supervision of the magistrate, acting upon instructions from the seat of government, and the chiefs look upon themselves as the lieutenants of the supreme chief, for the execution of his orders, and for the management of their respective tribes in accordance therewith. I have already said, that the people concur in this arrangement. It is so much gained to them, because the many changes forced upon them by their contact with civilization requires a higher guidance than their chiefs can give; but it would be a mistake to suppose that the sentiment of regard and veneration for the persons and families of their chiefs has been destroyed. They are a practical clever people, and see the necessity for alterations such as have taken place; but they are loyal also, and still venerate the ancient reigning families.

It is they who have really lost as much as their people have gained by the new state of things. They have been stripped of their revenue as well as of their rank and power, and although they continue to discharge important duties for Government, and are indispensable to the good government of their tribes, they have hitherto received no compensation for their losses or services.

Perhaps no more remarkable instances could be mentioned of the ready obedience paid by the natives to the Lieutenant Governor than the effect of the proclamation of the 22nd of November 1862, requiring all natives in the two chief towns of the Colony to wear the European trowsers, and the notification of his wish that the native population generally should cultivate cotton. Both these were innovations and unpopular. Up to the day mentioned in the proclamation the great majority of the natives in these towns wore their usual scanty costume, and failure of obedience was predicted, but on the day mentioned in the proclamation on which it should come in force, and of which only a month's notice was given, every native in both towns appeared dressed as ordered, and so general has been the effect that all natives resorting to the towns may be seen carrying their trowsers ready to put on as soon as they enter the boundaries of the boroughs.

As regards the cotton, they felt a repugnance to cultivate anything not used as food, or akin to food, such as tobacco. They feared it might create new diseases, and had other superstitions objections to it. Notwithstanding these feelings, no sooner was it made clearly known to them that it was the Lieutenant Governor's wish that they should cultivate cotton, than they complied all over the Colony; in some cases zealously, but in most reluctantly. No disease followed, but unfortunately a scarcity of food prevailed, which in itself checked the new occupation; but even this was not attributed to the new plant, as would in former years most certainly have been the case.

By means of the general compliance of the natives in this wish of the Lieutenant Governor, much valuable experience was obtained as to the situation and kind of soil best adapted for cotton cultivation.

At the time of this first experiment there was no market in the Colony for cotton in the seed, so it failed to become an article of trade, and the cultivation languished. Now, however, the state of affairs is different, and the Lieutenant Governor, guided by former experience, has directed one trial near the seat of Government, and occupying a favourable locality, to recommence the cultivation of the plant this season, and they have cheerfully undertaken to do so.

LAGOS.

No. 13.

No. 13.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor FREEMAN to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. .)

MY LORD DUKE, Royal Crescent, September 5, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace herewith a copy of the Blue Book of the Lagos Government for the year 1862.

The fact that it was not prepared until after my departure from Lagos, and the peculiar circumstances and imperfect state of the Local Government during the year 1862, will, I trust, be sufficient excuse for its shortcomings.

I have deemed it useless to append to the Blue Book any lengthened Report, for there being no data of previous years to compare with it the mere details of the organization and expenditure of the Government is all that can be furnished.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HY. STANHOPE FREEMAN.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.

&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

No. 14.

ST. HELENA.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir CHARLES ELLIOT to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 2.)

MY LORD DUKE, St. Helena, July 8, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of St. Helena for the year ~~1862,~~ which I found on my arrival prepared and ready for transmission.

2. Some delay has been occasioned in the preparation of these returns in consequence, as I am informed by the Colonial Secretary, of the pressure of work in his department, and also of the prevalence of an epidemic from which most of the public servants, in common with the rest of the community, had suffered severely.

3. I observe, on a comparison of the book now transmitted with that forwarded for the year previous, that the variations in the returns are slight and unimportant; that the returns of revenue and shipping bear a favourable comparison with former years; and that there are no prominent points calling for any special remark from me; and as my arrival in the Colony is of so recent a date, I will, with your Grace's permission, defer any observations which may occur to me until a future and more fitting opportunity.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. (Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1 in No. 14.

Enclosure 1. in No. 14.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the estimated Expenditure of the Island of St. Helena for the Year 1862, and the actual Expenditure of the Year as taken from the Accounts made up from 1st January to 31st December.

Heads of Expenditure.	Estimated Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure.	Decrease Expenditure.	Increase Expenditure.	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
His Excellency the Governor -	2,080 10 0	2,082 18 6	- - -	2 8 6	—
Colonial Secretary and Auditor -	1,300 0 0	1,197 19 5	102 0 7	- - -	1
Colonial Treasurer - - -	640 0 0	532 7 6	107 12 6	- - -	2
Surveyor and Civil Engineer -	1,163 1 8	1,120 3 2½	42 18 5½	—	—
Customs - - - - -	1,623 15 0	1,622 2 9	1 12 3	—	—
Post Office - - - - -	180 0 0	180 0 0	—	—	—
Supreme Court - - -	1,245 0 0	1,240 0 0	5 0 0	—	—
Summary Court - - -	1,344 5 0	1,255 14 0	88 11 0	- - -	3
Ecclesiastical Establishment -	775 1 0	770 12 7½	4 8 4½	—	—
Education Establishment - -	680 0 0	606 13 8	73 6 4	- - -	4
Medical Establisment - -	965 15 0	1,009 12 2	- - -	43 17 2	5
Gaol Establishment - - -	285 8 0	392 10 6	- - -	107 2 6	6
Militia - - - - -	1,437 10 0	659 11 3½	777 18 8½	—	—
Coroner - - - - -	- - -	22 18 4	- - -	22 18 4	—
Pensions - - - - -	969 15 11	345 9 2	624 6 9	- - -	7
Revenue Services (exclusive of Establishment) - - -	16 0 0	19 6 4½	- - -	3 6 4½	—
Administration of Justice - -	80 0 0	64 5 0	15 15 0	—	—
Hospital (exclusive of Establishment) - - - -	980 0 0	644 10 3½	335 9 8½	- - -	8
Police and Gaols (exclusive of Establishment) - - -	435 0 0	638 14 7½	- - -	203 14 7½	9
Rent - - - - -	49 10 9	49 10 9	—	—	—
Conveyance of Mails - -	2 10 0	- - -	2 10 0	—	—
Works and Buildings - -	1,875 15 0	4,419 1 7	- - -	2,543 6 7	10
Roads, Streets, and Bridges -	600 0 0	799 18 10½	- - -	199 18 10½	11
Drawbacks and Refund of Duties	5 0 0	4 11 6	0 8 6	—	—
Special Disbursements - -	140 0 0	457 0 0	- - -	317 0 0	12
Special Advances - - -	- - -	290 0 0	- - -	290 0 0	13
Remittance to Agent General -	- - -	2,100 0 0	- - -	2,100 0 0	14
Total of all heads - £	18,873 17 4	22,525 12 1½	2,181 18 2	5,833 12 11½	

1. Colonial Secretary 150*l.*, drawn in England.
2. Colonial Treasurer 105*l.*, drawn in England.
3. Summary Judge 150*l.*, drawn in England, and an increase of 1*s.* per diem to Police.
4. Head Schoolmaster 100*l.*, drawn in England. Half salary of Assistant Master not drawn for December.

5. Half salary to Colonial Surgeon in 1861.
6. Gaol.—Additional number of overseers of prisoners and increase of pay.
7. Pensions drawn in England.
8. Saving in expense of provisions, &c. from reduced number of patients.
9. Additional number of prisoners.
10. Works and Buildings.—417*l.* additional expenditure for drainage; James Town ditto, 606*l.* repairing colonial property; 1,488*l.* building dwellings for poor; excess, 31*l.* repairing Plantation House.
11. Roads, Streets, &c.—199*l.* additional expenditure in repairs.
12. Special Disbursements.—150*l.* Hutts Gate Chapel; 150*l.* purchase of property for militia.
13. Special Advances.—200*l.* advanced American Consul; 45*l.* advanced to Board of Trade; 45*l.* passages of distressed subjects.
14. The payments made by the Agent General are for the following items:

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Established Salaries:		
Secretary	150 0 0	
Treasurer	131 5 0	
Summary Judge	150 0 0	
Colonial Dispenser	14 7 6	
		445 12 6
Contingencies:		
Stationery	25 17 8	
Printing Office	17 5 5	
Post Office	8 0 0	
Militia Clothing	844 10 5	
		895 13 6
Pensions:		
Mr. John Young	100 0 0	
Mr. G. W. Melliss	164 16 8	
Mr. C. M. Vowell	75 0 0	
Mr. E. Gulliver	145 0 0	
Mr. H. Kay	100 0 0	
Colonel Barnes	21 0 0	
Mr. S. F. Pritchard	37 10 0	
		643 6 8
Special:		
London Post Office for pre-paid postage	207 12 8	
Passages Money to St. Helena:		
Bishop	£ 80 0 0	
Colonial Surgeon	80 6 6	
S. Andrews, a distressed native of St. Helena	26 8 0	
	186 14 6	
Agency	51 18 8	
Postages	3 9 2	
		449 15 0
		2,434 7 8
Advance on account of Widows' Fund		1,201 1 1
		£ 3,635 8 9

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the estimated Revenue of the Island of St. Helena for the Year 1862, and the Revenue received in that Year, as shown by the Accounts made up from 1st January to 31st December.

Heads of Receipts.	Estimated Revenue.	Revenue Received.	Decrease Receipts.	Increase Receipts.
Customs.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Imports	7,500 0 0	8,870 6 4	- - -	1,370 6 4
Wharfage	3,700 0 0	3,088 0 10	611 19 2	
Tonnage	2,000 0 0	2,384 8 1	- - -	384 8 1
Fees, &c.	600 0 0	550 0 0	50 0 0	
Warehouse Rent	200 0 0	346 17 2	- - -	146 17 2
Permits	60 0 0	87 11 0	- - -	27 11 0
Water	1,200 0 0	1,274 4 8	- - -	74 4 8
Cranage	100 0 0	193 6 6	- - -	93 6 6
	15,360 0 0	16,794 14 7	661 19 2	2,096 13 9
Land Sales.				
Lands	- - -	30 12 6	- - -	30 12 6

ST. HELENA.

Encl. 1 in No. 14.

Heads of Receipts.	Estimated Revenue.	Revenue received.	Decrease Receipts.	Increase Receipts.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Land Revenue.				
Rents of Houses and Lands - - -	1,200 0 0	1,195 18 2	4 1 10	—
Auction Duties - -	300 0 0	227 2 1	72 17 11	—
Licences.				
Wine and Spirits - - - -	650 0 0	775 0 0	- - -	125 0 0
Coffee and Ginger Beer - - -	65 0 0	38 0 0	27 0 0	—
Game - - - - -	35 0 0	60 0 0	- - -	25 0 0
Boats - - - - -	300 0 0	342 10 0	- - -	42 10 0
Attorneys - - - - -	10 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	—
Auctioneers - - - -	10 0 0	20 0 0	- - -	10 0 0
Notaries - - - - -	10 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	—
Billiards - - - - -	20 0 0	- - -	20 0 0	—
	1,100 0 0	1,245 10 0	57 0 0	202 10 0
Assessed Taxes.				
Carriages, Carts, Horses, and Water - -	339 0 0	320 12 6	18 7 6	—
Postage - - -	180 0 0	372 15 2	- - -	192 15 2
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Courts.				
Judicial - - - - -	40 0 0	36 8 0	3 12 0	—
Police - - - - -	37 0 0	42 19 8	- - -	5 19 8
Militia - - - - -	8 0 0	2 12 6	5 7 6	—
	85 0 0	82 0 2	8 19 6	5 19 8
Fees of Office - - -	20 0 0	15 4 6	4 15 6	—
Sale of Government Property.				
Medicines - - - - -	10 0 0	18 1 7	- - -	8 1 7
Unserviceable Stores - - - -	5 0 0	26 9 9	- - -	21 9 9
	15 0 0	44 11 4	- - -	29 11 4
Reimbursements in aid of Expenses.				
Ration Stoppages from Soldiers in Gaol -	15 0 0	72 4 1	- - -	57 4 1
Work done in Gaol - - - -	25 0 0	18 2 2	6 17 10	—
Hospital Stoppages - - -	110 0 0	117 5 3	- - -	7 5 3
Calendars sold - - - -	—	—	—	—
	150 0 0	207 11 6	6 17 10	64 9 4
Special Recepts.				
Portion of Drainage paid by War Department - - -		300 0 0	- - -	300 0 0
Amount refunded by African Schoolmaster - - -		6 13 4	- - -	6 13 4
Deposit on account of Market Building Committee - - - - - -	- - -	113 10 0	- - -	113 10 0
Repaid by his Excellency the Governor for work done by Engineer Department -	- - -	21 0 0	- - -	21 0 0
	- - -	441 3 4	- - -	441 3 4
£	18,749 0 0	20,977 15 10	834 19 3	3,063 15 1

Enclosure 2 in No. 14.

ABSTRACT of the RETURNS prepared for the ST. HELENA BLUE BOOK for 1862.

DETAILED ACCOUNT of REVENUE and EXPENDITURE, 1862.

Revenue.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs.						
Imports, Spirits, Wine, Beer, Cordials	8,870	6	4			
Wharfage	3,088	0	10			
Permits and Entries	637	11	0			
Cranage	193	6	6			
Tonnage	2,384	8	1			
Warehouse Rent	346	17	2			
Water to Shipping	1,274	4	8			
				16,794	14	7
Licences.						
Wine and Spirits	775	0	0			
Coffee	30	0	0			
Ginger Beer	8	0	0			
Game	60	0	0			
Boats	342	10	0			
Attornies	5	0	0			
Auctioneers	20	0	0			
Notaries	5	0	0			
				1,245	10	0
Auction Duties				227	2	1
Direct Taxes.						
Carriages	48	0	0			
Carts	41	0	0			
Horses	56	10	0			
Receipts from other Sources.						
Crown Lands	1,226	10	8			
Water Rate	175	2	6			
Hospital	117	5	3			
Medicines, sold	17	16	6			
Sheriff's Department for Work done by Prisoners	18	2	2			
Ration stoppages on account of military prisoners	72	4	1			
Judicial fines and fees	82	0	2			
Militia fines	—					
Fees of office	15	4	6			
Post office	372	15	2			
War Department for drainage	300	0	0			
Amounts refunded	27	13	4			
Interest on bond for 2,000*l.*	—					
Sale of Government property	26	14	10			
Amount paid into Treasury by Market Building Committee	113	10	0			
Do. Widows' Fund	485	9	8			
				3,050	8	10
			£	21,463	5	6

Expenditure.		s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Governor's Establishment	2,082	18	6			
Colonial Secretary's office	1,045	10	5			
Colonial Treasurer's office	532	7	6			
Customs	1,622	2	9			
Supreme Court	1,240	0	0			
Sheriff's Department, including maintenance of prisoners	915	1	6			
Coroner	57	5	4			
Police department	1,371	17	7½			
Printing	152	9	0			
Post office	180	0	0			
Medical department, including hospital	1,654	2	5½			
Ecclesiastical department	770	12	7½			
Schools	606	13	8			
Commissioners of Crown property	73	0	0			
Surveyor and Civil Engineer	1,047	3	2½			
				13,351	4	7
Buildings and drains				4,419	1	7
Public roads				799	18	10½
Maintenance of telegraphs	140	0	0			
Pensions to civil servants	345	9	2			
Militia	671	11	3½			
Amount paid for hire of property No. 235 for S. H. R.	37	10	9			
Do. maintenance of convict O'Berne's child	6	0	0			
Do. towards a church in the vicinity of Longwood	150	0	0			
Do. purchase of property at Francis plantation	150	0	0			
Do. recovering government property at sea	6	0	0			
Do. rescuing a man blown to sea in a boat	4	0	0			
Do. surveying a vessel for emigrants	1	0	0			
Do. bailiffs attending sessions	29	18	0			
Do. commission on taxes collected	19	6	4½			
Do. passage of G. Mathey	15	0	0			
Do. do. J. Alting, subject of Hanover	30	0	0			
Do. transmitted to Agent-General in London	2,100	0	0			
Do. of duties refunded	4	11	6			
Do. advanced on account of Board Trade	45	0	0			
Do. do. American Government	200	0	0			
Do. do. Widows' Fund	467	10	0			
				4,422	17	1
			£	22,993	2	1½

AREA, Square Miles, 47.—ACRES, { Cultivated - 1,133 / Pasture - 7,652 / Waste - 21,515 } Number of Acres, 30,300.

Houses.		Population as per Census, 7th April 1861.											1862.			Immigrants and Emigrants landing from Prizes, and being liberated Africans afterwards emigrating to West Indies.	
		Under 20.		Over 20.		Over 60.		Garrison.		Total.							
Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total of both Sexes.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immigrants.	Emigrants.
376	9	1,415	1,462	1,054	1,288	141	136	760	188	3,370	3,074	6,444	113	162	48	1,614	1,479

ST. HELENA.

DEATHS, 1862.

Classified according to Age.								Classified according to Disease.												
Under 10 Years.	20	30	40	50	60	70	80 and upwards.	Fever.	Dysentery.	Consumption.	Natural Decay.	Teething and Convulsions.	Apoplexy and Paralysis.	Bronchitis.	Heart.	Bowels.	Brain.	Cancer.	Others.	Total.
67	13	33	14	8	5	7	15	16	20	24	12	16	6	5	6	6	5	3	43	162

OCCUPATIONS, as per Census, 7th April 1861.

Government Officers.	Professions.	Merchants and Shopkeepers.	Tradesmen and Apprentices.	Farmers and Gardeners.	Boatmen and Fishermen.	Domestics.	Labourers.	Pensioners.	Police.	Disabled and Infirm.	Lunatics.	Occupations not stated.	Children.	Garrison.	Total Males.
26	22	91	245	67	183	167	683	12	10	43	2	118	941	760	3,370

Annuitants.	Sempstresses.	Laundresses.	Domestics.	Labourers.	Shopkeepers.	School-mistresses.	Nurses.	Disabled and Infirm.	Lunatics.	Occupations not stated.	Children.	Wives and Daughters, Garrison.	Total Females.
44	237	582	398	77	42	10	61	62	3	423	947	188	3,074

Total Males and Females - - - 6,444

RELIGION and EDUCATION, 1862.

Religion.					Education.			
Denomination.	No. of Churches and Chapels.	Places of Worship not separate.	Capacity of Building.	Average Attendance.	Schools.	Scholars. Males.	Females.	Total.
Established Church -	4	4	1,434	850	5 Government schools -	274	93	367
					3 Benevolent Society -	146	81	227
					1 Free school -	37	50	87
Protestant Dissenters -	1	3	430	310	2 Baptist Mission schools -	51	89	140
					1 Garrison school -	54	41	95
Roman Catholics - -	1	—	200	200	2 Private schools - -	—	30	30
Total - -	6	7	2,064	1,360	Total - -	562	384	946

JUDICIAL, 1862.

Supreme Court.			Police Cases.							
								Seamen.		
Felony.	Misdemeanor.	Civil Cases.	Drunk and Disorderly.	Assaults.	Petty Theft.	Vagrant.	Miscellaneous.	Drunk and Disorderly.	Refusing Duty.	Total.
7	2	2	133	41	13	5	80	40	57	369

CLASSIFIED RETURN of CONVICTIONS before the MAGISTRATES.

Description.	Drunk and disorderly.	Assaults.	Petty Thefts.	Vagrants.	Malicious Trespass.	Nonpayment of Rates.	Militia Fines.	Breach of Highway Regulations.	Selling Wine without Licence.	Refusing Seaman's Duty.	Refractory in Gaol.	Leaving Family chargeable.	Others.	Total.
Inhabitants - -	122	30	11	5	9	19	8	12	2	—	—	3	4	225
Africans - - -	10	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	14
Seamen - - -	40	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	57	—	—	—	106
Soldiers - -	1	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	—	24
Total - -	173	41	13	5	12	19	8	12	2	57	18	3	6	369

CLASSIFIED RETURN of PRISONERS in GAOL during 1862.

Sex, &c.	Assaults.	Stealing.	Vagrant.	Drunk and disorderly.	Non-payment of Fines.	Remands	Refusing Seamen's Duty.	Convicted for Trial.	Military Courts Martial.	Total.
Male - - - -	8	15	1	21	28	3	14	3	16	109
Female - - -	2	—	2	11	12	—	—	—	—	27
Total - -	10	15	3	32	40	3	14	3	16	136
British - - -	5	2	1	1	5	—	10	—	16	40
Foreign - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4
Native - - - - -	5	13	2	31	35	3	—	3	—	92
Total - - -	10	15	3	32	40	3	14	3	16	136

RETURN of CASES treated in the CIVIL HOSPITAL, 1862.

——	Fevers.	Disease of Chest.	Disease of Bowels.	Surgical Cases.	Others.	Total.	Observations.
Remained and admitted - -	15	23	42	93	73	246	Daily expense of patients, including servants' wages, of 4*s.* $3\frac{1}{2}$*d.*
Discharged - - -	15	12	24	87	67	205	Daily average of sick, $15\frac{21}{365}$.
Died - - - -	—	11	13	5	5	—	Total number of diets, 5,496.
Remaining, 31st December 1862	—	—	5	1	1	7	

RETURN of FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Widows' and Orphans' Fund.	Benevolent Society.	Life Assurance.	Benefit Society.	Mechanics' Society.	Social Society.	Poor Society.	Annuity Fund.
9 Subscribers. 43 Annuitants.	28 Subscribers. 227 Scholars.	—	22 Members.	250 Members. 16 Widows.	90 Members. 16 Widows.	304 Members.	9 Widows.

NUMBER of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, and DEATHS registered in each of the Years 1860, 1861, and 1862.

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Abstract of Deaths, 1862.		Remarks.
1860	149	44	193	10 years and under -	67	The total number of Births, as ascertained from the Census for *five years* to 7th April 1861, amount to 1,149, out of which 330 had died before the day of the Census and 819 were surviving.
1861	103	46	211	20 do. -	13	
1862	113	48	162	30 do. -	33	
				40 do. -	14	
				50 do. -	8	
				60 do. -	5	
				70 do. -	7	
				80 years and upwards -	15	The average number of Births would be $229\frac{4}{5}$ annually.
					162	

ST. HELENA.

NUMBER of SCHOOLS and SCHOLARS in each of the Years 1860, 1861, and 1862.

Year.	Schools.				Scholars.			
	Gort.	Garrison.	Others.	Total.	Gort.	Garrison.	Others.	Total.
1860	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	968
1861	5	2	9	16	382	99	519	1,000
1862	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Centesimal proportion of Children between 6 and 12 years attending Schools in 1861, as per Census, ·83.

NUMBER and TONNAGE of VESSELS ENTERED and CLEARED from and to each COUNTRY in each of the Years 1861 and 1862.

Countries.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	1861.		1862.		1861.		1862.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
United Kingdom - -	12	2,938	17	5,823	16	10,992	14	9,584
British Possessions - -	140	92,325	142	94,500	11	4,463	23	7,535
France - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holland - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
United States - - -	1	263	—	—	3	1,080	2	426
Foreign States - -	55	33,933	51	29,247	10	2,361	9	2,375
S. W. Fishery - - -	29	7,629	39	10,290	—	—	—	—
Total - -	237	137,088	249	139,860	40	18,896	48	19,920

NUMBER and TONNAGE of BRITISH and FOREIGN VESSELS ENTERED and CLEARED from and to each COUNTRY with CARGOES and in BALLAST, in the Year 1862.

	Entered.						Cleared.					
	With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
	BRITISH.											
United Kingdom - -	17	5,823	—	—	17	5,823	11	8,944	2	331	13	9,275
British Possessions -	109	76,857	—	—	109	76,857	16	6,304	7	1,231	23	7,535
United States - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	87	—	—	1	87
Foreign States - -	23	13,364	—	—	23	13,364	1	364	4	918	5	1,282
S. W. Fishery - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	149	96,044	—	—	149	96,044	29	15,699	13	2,480	42	18,179
	FOREIGN.											
United Kingdom - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	309	—	—	1	309
British Possessions -	33	17,643	—	—	33	17,643	—	—	—	—	—	—
United States - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	339	—	—	1	339
Foreign States - -	28	15,883	—	—	28	15,883	4	1,093	—	—	4	1,093
S. W. Fishery - -	39	10,290	—	—	39	10,290	—	—	—	—	—	—
	100	43,816	—	—	100	43,816	6	1,741	—	—	6	1,741
	TOTAL OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN.											
United Kingdom - -	17	5,823	—	—	17	5,823	12	9,253	2	331	14	9,584
British Possessions -	142	94,500	—	—	142	94,500	16	6,304	7	1,231	23	7,535
United States - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	426	—	—	2	426
Foreign States - -	51	29,247	—	—	51	29,247	5	1,457	4	918	9	2,375
S. W. Fishery - -	39	10,290	—	—	39	10,290	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total British and Foreign - -	249	139,860	—	—	249	139,860	35	17,440	13	2,480	48	19,920

NUMBER and TONNAGE of VESSELS of each NATION ENTERED and CLEARED in each of the Years 1861 and 1862.

Nationality of Vessels.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	1861.		1862.		1861.		1862.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
United Kingdom	136	87,319	140	94,641	26	15,226	34	16,711
Colonial	5	858	9	1,403	3	484	8	1,468
American	49	23,324	60	24,095	4	1,416	4	1,342
Belgian	1	444	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brazilian	1	230	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bremen	2	1,317	1	416	—	—	—	—
Danish	—	—	1	309	—	—	1	309
Dutch	15	9,236	15	9,584	1	665	—	—
French	6	3,074	9	4,677	—	—	—	—
Hamburgh	5	874	6	1,434	3	408	—	—
Italian	—	—	1	484	—	—	—	—
Norwegian	2	1,037	1	426	—	—	—	—
Oldenburgh	1	856	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portuguese	1	135	—	—	1	135	—	—
Siamese	—	—	1	315	—	—	—	—
Spanish	7	5,910	3	1,235	—	—	1	90
Swedish	6	2,474	2	841	2	562	—	—
Total	237	137,088	249	139,860	40	18,896	48	19,920

NUMBER and TONNAGE of VESSELS of each NATION ENTERED and CLEARED with CARGOES and IN BALLAST in the Year 1862.

Nationality of Vessels.	Entered.						Cleared.					
	With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
United Kingdom	140	94,641	—	—	140	94,641	25	14,948	9	1,763	34	16,711
Colonial	9	1,403	—	—	9	1,403	4	751	4	717	8	1,468
American	60	24,095	—	—	60	24,095	4	1,342	—	—	4	1,342
Bremen	1	416	—	—	1	416	—	—	—	—	—	—
Danish	1	309	—	—	1	309	1	309	—	—	1	309
Dutch	15	9,584	—	—	15	9,584	—	—	—	—	—	—
French	9	4,677	—	—	9	4,677	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hamburgh	6	1,434	—	—	6	1,434	—	—	—	—	—	—
Italian	1	484	—	—	1	484	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norwegian	1	426	—	—	1	426	—	—	—	—	—	—
Siamese	1	315	—	—	1	315	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spanish	3	1,235	—	—	3	1,235	1	90	—	—	1	90
Swedish	2	841	—	—	2	841	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	249	139,860	—	—	249	139,860	35	17,440	13	2,480	48	19,920

TOTAL VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS in each of the Years 1861 and 1862.

——	1861.	1862.
Imports	127,850	137,983
Exports	9,337	16,186

TOTAL VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS from and to each COUNTRY in each of the Years 1861 and 1862.

Countries.	Imports.		Exports.	
	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.
United Kingdom	77,708	80,098	3,931	2,487
British India	7,329	15,751	213	—
Cape of Good Hope	29,117	26,374	440	926
Africa	—	1,862	—	3,697
United States	4,367	3,168	4,269	8,080
Other Countries	4,191	1,717	484	996
S. W. Fishery	5,138	9,013	—	—
Total	127,850	137,983	9,337	16,186

ST. HELENA. TOTAL QUANTITIES and VALUE of PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED in each of the Years 1861 and 1862.

Principal Articles.	Quantities.		Value.	
	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.
			£	£
Animals (living):				
Oxen - - - No.	445	361	4,415	4,360
Sheep - - - „	2,764	2,720	3,644	4,422
Beer - - - - Hhds.	41	166	—	—
Beer - - - - Doz. qts.	9,542	8,834	4,209	788
Beans and Pease - - - Bags	615	508	1,002	712
Beef and Pork - - - Casks	1,414	1,955	7,722	10,641
Biscuit - - - Bags and Casks	1,645	3,801	2,297	4,727
Bone - - - - Cwt.	—	15	—	180
Boats - - - - No.	—	16	—	118
Butter - - - - Kegs	641	723	2,559	2,936
Candles - - - Boxes	456	552	1,784	2,984
Cement and Lime - - Casks	514	616	641	1,095
Coals - - - - Tons	353	645	680	1,069
Confectionery - - - Cases	1,628	521	2,884	1,580
Coffee - - - Bags	—	148	—	736
Cottons and Linens - Cases and Bales	27	115	1,880	2,537
Furniture - - - Packages	74	163	765	871
Flour and Meal - Bags and Casks	4,449	4,650	8,505	8,831
Grain - - - - Bags	4,292	4,197	4,287	3,642
Gram - - - - „	407	638	435	590
Haberdashery, &c. - - Cases	334	283	14,241	10,618
Hulls of Vessels, Tackle, &c. - No.	6	5	1,052	701
Iron - - - - Tons	—	174	—	2,260
Ironware - - - Packages	1,135	638	1,337	2,716
Naval Stores - - „	267	488	1,618	1,591
Oil - - - - Casks	209	304	5,138	9,214
Oilman's Stores - - - Cases	518	581	1,803	1,749
Onions - - Bags and Casks	603	349	356	242
Painters' Colours - - Packages	161	111	633	362
Potatoes - - Bags and Baskets	602	625	556	540
Rice - - - - Bags	5,469	11,708	5,283	9,597
Shoes and Boots - - - Trunks	132	98	3,273	1,812
Soap and Starch - - Boxes	385	957	1,009	2,185
Soldiers' Necessaries - Bales and Cases	—	64	—	1,325
Sugar - - - No. of Bags	809	4,007	1,436	5,906
Spirits - - - - Gallons	5,814	5,351	2,132	2,463
Tea - - - - Boxes	377	543	1,655	1,725
Table Stores - - - Packages	1,205	645	4,400	2,395
Tobacco - - - - Boxes	220	227	1,266	1,316
Timber - - - Cubic feet	18,020	19,859	1,901	1,833
Woollens - - - - Bales	99	222	1,610	2,114
Wine - - - - Gallons	78,273	70,020	10,698	11,061

QUANTITIES and VALUE of PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED from VARIOUS COUNTRIES in the Year 1862.

Principal Articles.	Countries whence imported.	Quantities.	Value.
			£
Animals (living): Oxen -	Cape of Good Hope No.	307	3,930
	Africa (W.C.) - „	54	430
		361	4,360
Sheep -	Cape of Good Hope „	2,720	4,422
Beer - -	United Kingdom Hhds.	166	788
Beer - -	United Kingdom Doz. qts.	8,834	3,857
Beans and Pease -	United Kingdom - Bags	319	579
	Africa (W. C.) - „	169	96
	United States - „	20	37
		—	712
Beef and Pork	United Kingdom Casks	1,491	8,566
	Cape of Good Hope „	124	583
	Africa (W. C.) - „	36	78
	United States - „	233	1,171
	Other Countries - „	71	243
		—	10,641
Biscuit -	United Kingdom Bgs. & Casks	2,880	3,731
	Cape of Good Hope „	446	453
	Africa (W. C.) - „	148	92
	United States - „	327	451
		—	4,727
Bone - -	S. W. Fishery - Cwt.	15	180
Boats - -	Africa (W. C.) - No.	4	39
	United States - „	12	79
		—	118
Butter -	United Kingdom - Kegs	707	2,899
	Other Countries - „	16	37
		—	2,936
Candles -	United Kingdom - Boxes	524	2,872
	Cape of Good Hope „	17	82
	United States - „	11	30
		—	2,984

Principal Articles.	Countries whence imported.	Quantities.	Value.
			£
Cement and Lime	United Kingdom Casks	436	635
	Cape of Good Hope „	180	460
		—	1,095
Coals	United Kingdom - Tons	645	1,069
Confectionery	United Kingdom - Cases	143	781
	British India - - „	2	10
	Cape of Good Hope „	342	721
	United States - „	13	36
	Other Countries - „	21	32
		—	1,580
Coffee	Cape of Good Hope Bags	128	675
	United States - „	2	4
	Other Countries - „	18	57
		—	736
Cottons and Linens	United Kingdom Cases & Bales	115	2,537
Furniture	United Kingdom Pkgs.	138	808
	Cape of Good Hope „	15	58
	Other Countries - „	10	5
		—	871
Flour and Meal	United Kingdom Bags & Casks	3,421	7,148
	Cape of Good Hope „	1,105	1,398
	Other Countries - „	—	—
	United States - „	124	284
		—	8,831
Grain	United Kingdom - Bags	489	582
	British India - - „	1,736	1,094
	Cape of Good Hope „	1,972	1,966
		—	3,642
Gram	British India - - „	638	590
Haberdashery, Hosiery, and Millinery	United Kingdom - Cases	283	10,618
Hulls of Vessels, Tackle, &c.	Africa - - - No.	5	701
Iron	United Kingdom - Tons	174	2,260
Ironware	United Kingdom - Pkgs.	619	2,633
	Cape of Good Hope „	17	77
	United States - „	—	—
	Africa - - - „	2	6
		—	2,716
Naval Stores	United Kingdom - „	426	1,489
	Africa - - „	29	31
	United States - „	27	51
	Other Countries - „	6	20
		—	1,591
Oil	United Kingdom - Casks	29	130
	Africa - - „	43	251
	S. W. Fishery - „	232	8,833
		—	9,214

Principal Articles.	Countries whence imported.	Quantities.	Value.
			£
Oilman's Stores	United Kingdom Pkgs. & Cases	525	1,564
	British India - „	29	110
	Cape of Good Hope „	27	75
		—	1,749
Onions	United Kingdom Bags & Bskts.	20	25
	British India - „	24	6
	Cape of Good Hope „	297	196
	United States - „	8	15
		—	242
Painters' Colours	United Kingdom - Pkgs.	111	362
Potatoes	United Kingdom Bags & Bskts.	253	193
	British India - „	20	20
	Cape of Good Hope „	81	80
	Africa - - „	238	221
	Other Countries - „	33	26
		—	540
Rice	British India - Bags	11,105	9,086
	Cape of Good Hope „	355	348
	Africa - - „	163	115
	United States - „	55	18
	Other Countries - „	30	30
		—	9,597
Shoes, &c. Boots	United Kingdom -	98	1,812
Soldiers' Necessaries	United Kingdom Bales & Cases	64	1,325
Soap and Starch	United Kingdom - Boxes	856	2,073
	British India - „	9	20
	Cape of Good Hope „	64	60
	United States - „	28	32
		—	2,185
Sugar	United Kingdom Csks. & Bags	75	421
	Cape of Good Hope „	597	1,125
	Other Countries - „	—	—
	British India - - „	3,335	4,360
		—	5,906
Spirits	United Kingdom - Galls.	5,351	2,463
Tea	United Kingdom - Boxes	346	1,354
	Cape of Good Hope „	84	117
	Other Countries - „	113	254
		—	1,725
Table Stores	United Kingdom - Pkgs.	444	1,957
	British India - „	3	8
	Cape of Good Hope „	31	110
	Africa - - „	47	95
	United States - „	89	183
	Other Countries - „	31	42
		—	2,395
Tobacco	United Kingdom - Boxes	90	366
	British India - „	1	12
	Cape of Good Hope „	37	426
	United States - „	99	512
		—	1,316

ST. HELENA.

Principal Articles.	Countries whence imported.	Quantities.	Value.	Principal Articles.	Countries whence imported.	Quantities.	Value.
			£				£
Timber -	United Kingdom C. Feet	6,843	874	Woollens -	United Kingdom - Bales	4,925	3,110
	British India - „	9,523	380		Cape of Good Hope „	64,948	7,925
	Cape of Good Hope „	2,588	456		Africa - - „	36	2
	Africa - - „	420	80		Other Countries - „	111	24
	United States - „	440	37			—	11,061
	Other Countries - „	45	6				
		—	1,833		Total Value of Principal and other Articles - - £	—	137,983
Woollens -	United Kingdom - Bales	222	2,114				

TOTAL QUANTITIES and VALUE of PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED in each of the Years 1861 and 1862.

Principal Articles.	Quantities.		Value.	
	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.
			£	£
Animals (living) Horses - - No.	—	2	—	60
Books - - - - Case	—	5	—	150
Bone - - - - Cwt.	—	15	—	180
Casks - - - - No.	809	1,386	460	846
Cottons - - - - Bales	—	158	—	2,701
Earthenware and Glass - Casks and Cases	—	62	—	242
Forage - - - - Bales	—	25	—	56
Hides - - - - No.	503	510	195	245
Hoops and Headings - - Packages	—	272	—	156
Ironware - - - „	—	12	—	60
Ironware - - - „	—	20	—	260
Ironmongery - - - Casks	—	18	—	82
Naval Stores - - - Packages	20	140	500	540
Oil - - - - Casks	120	165	4,369	7,960
Skins - - - - Bales	—	42	—	149
Tanks, Iron - - - No.	52	82	210	270
Wool - - - Bales and Bags	76	44	385	249
Copper and Composition - - Bales	262	223	2,222	1,777

QUANTITIES and VALUE of PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED to VARIOUS COUNTRIES in the Year 1862.

Principal Articles.	Countries to which exported.	Quantities.	Value.	Principal Articles.	Countries to which exported.	Quantities.	Value.
			£				£
Animals (living) Horses -	Other Countries - No.	2	60	Ironware -	Cape of Good Hope Pkgs.	12	60
Books - -	Cape of Good Hope Cases	5	150		Other Countries - „	20	260
Bone - -	United States - Cwt.	15	180	Ironmongery -	Africa - - Casks	18	82
Casks - -	Cape of Good Hope No.	803	579	Naval Stores -	Cape of Good Hope Pkgs.	4	40
	Africa - - „	458	201		Other Countries - „	136	500
	Other Countries - „	125	66	Oil - -	United States - Casks	159	7,900
Copper and Composition	United Kingdom - „	180	1,577		Other Countries - „	6	60
	Africa - - „	43	200	Skins - -	United Kingdom - Bales	41	135
Cottons - -	Africa - - Bales	158	2,701		Cape of Good Hope „	1	14
Earthenware and Glass -	Cape of Good Hope Csks. & Cases	8	7	Tanks, Iron -	United Kingdom - No.	82	270
	Africa - - „	54	235	Wool - -	United Kingdom Bales & Bags	36	240
Forage - -	Cape of Good Hope Bales	25	56		Africa - - „	8	9
Hides - -	United Kingdom - No.	510	245				
Hoops, Staves, and Headings	Africa - - Pkgs.	247	106		Total Value of Principal and other Articles - - £	—	16,186
	Other Countries - „	25	50				

RATE of CUSTOMS DUTY imposed upon PRINCIPAL ARTICLES, and Amount thereof received, in each of the Years 1861 and 1862.

Principal Articles.	Rate.		Amount.	
			1861.	1862.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Beer - - - -	10*s.* per hhd. - - 6*d.* per doz. - -	11th July 1839 -	141 15 0	284 18 6
Spirits - - - -	10*s.* per gall - -	11th July 1839 -	2,169 5 0	2,423 0 0
Wine - - - -	1*s.* 9*d.* per gallon -	21st February 1853	6,356 18 4	6,230 17 6

RETURN of VESSELS, distinguishing those which have paid and those which have not paid Port charges.

Merchant vessels of all nations paying fees and tonnage duty during the year ended 31st December 1862 - - - -		967
Merchant vessels of all nations not paying fees and tonnage duty during the same period; viz.:—		
Vessels not anchoring - - - - -	48	
Mail steamers - - - - -	12	
Whalers, &c. returning within three months - -	18	
Government transports - - - -	4	
Slave vessels - - - - -	9	
Exempt by special order - - - -	1	
		92
Vessels of war during the same period:—		
English - - - - - -	12	
Dutch - - - - -	1	
French - - - - - -	10	
Prussian - - - - -	2	
Russian - - - - - -	2	
		27
Total shipping of every description - - -		1,086

GENERAL ABSTRACT of VESSELS which have touched at this Port from 1st January to the 31st December 1862.

Nation.	Steamers of War.	Sailing Vessels of War.	Government Transports.	Mail or Merchant Steamers.	Whalers.	Sailing Merchant Vessels.	Total.	Tonnage. Sailing Merchant Vessels.	Tonnage. Mail, or Merchant Steamers.	Tonnage. Whalers.	Total Tonnage.
British - - - -	11	1	1	15	—	560	588	374,308	11,990	—	386,298
American - - - -	—	—	2	—	72	79	153	65,111	—	24,412	89,523
Belgian - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	375	—	—	375
Brazilian - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bremen - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	6	6	3,990	—	—	3,990
Danish - - - -	—	—	1	—	—	6	7	1,778	—	—	1,778
Dutch - - - -	1	—	—	—	—	127	128	75,885	—	—	75,885
French - - - -	5	5	—	—	—	106	116	46,570	—	—	46,570
Hamburgh - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	26	26	8,630	—	—	8,630
Hanoverian - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Italian - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1,234	—	—	1,234
Mecklenburgh - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norwegian - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	2,183	—	—	2,183
Oldenburgh - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portuguese - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	318	—	—	318
Prussian - - - -	2	—	—	—	—	3	5	1,749	—	—	1,749
Russian - - - -	2	—	—	—	—	4	6	2,761	—	—	2,761
Sandwich Islands - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Siamese - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	665	—	—	665
Slavers, Nation unknown - -	—	—	—	—	—	9	9	—	—	—	—
Spanish - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	13	13	6,703	—	—	6,703
Swedish - - -	—	—	—	—	—	18	18	8,648	—	—	8,648
Total - - -	21	6	4	15	72	968	1,086	600,908	11,990	24,412	637,310

ST. HELENA.

AVERAGE PRICES of PRODUCE and MERCHANDISE.

		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Wheaten flour,	per barrel	3	0	0				
Wheaten bread	per lb.	0	0	3				
Horned cattle	each	10	0	0	to	20	0	0
Horses	„	15	0	0	to	70	0	0
Sheep	„	1	10	0	to	3	0	0
Goats	„	0	15	0				
Swine (alive)	per lb.	0	0	7	to	0	0	8
Milk	per quart	0	0	4	to	0	0	8
Butter (fresh)	per lb.	0	2	6				
Butter (salt)	„	0	2	0				
Cheese	„	0	2	0				
Tobacco	„	0	2	0				

		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Beef	per lb.	0	1	0	to	0	1	3
Mutton	„	0	1	0	to	0	1	3
Pork	„	0	0	10	to	0	1	0
Rice	„	0	0	2				
Coffee	„	0	1	6				
Tea	„	0	2	0	to	0	2	6
Sugar	„	0	0	3	to	0	0	6
Salt	„	0	0	1½				
Wine (Cape)	per gallon	0	6	0				
Brandy	„	1	10	0				
Beer	per quart	0	1	3				

WAGES for LABOUR.

		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Domestic, with food	per month	1	0	0	to	2	0	0
Predial, without food	per diem	0	2	0	to	0	4	0
Trades	„	0	5	0	to	0	10	0

LIBERATED AFRICAN DEPARTMENT, 1862.

	£	s.	d.
Pay of officers and overseers	1,670	16	8
Provisions	9,587	14	1
Clothing	2,482	13	2
Works and repairs at the station	324	0	3
Miscellaneous, including fuel, medicines, stores, &c.	762	8	9
£	14,827	12	11

NUMBER of AFRICANS landed and emigrated.

Landed from captured slavers	1,614
Emigrated to West Indies	1,479

NUMBER of AFRICANS on charge on 1st of each month.

January	585	July	667
February	891	August	933
March	729	September	843
April	444	October	651
May	425	November	637
June	404	December	617

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

New South Wales.

No. 15.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 15.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Honourable Sir John Young to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
(No. 91.)

My Lord Duke, Government House, Sydney, October 19, 1863.

I have the honour to forward herewith the Statistical Register of New South Wales for the year 1862.

2. The Report of the Registrar General which is prefixed contains remarks in illustration of the various tables, which will be found easy for reference, and exhibiting a complete view of the state and progress of the Colony.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle. (Signed) JOHN YOUNG.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 15.

Enclosure in No. 15.

Statistical Register, 1862.

Registrar General's Report to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Sir, Registrar General's Office, Sydney, September 24, 1863.

Introductory. The volume of statistics for the year 1862, to which this report is prefixed, differs from former volumes in this, that it is confined exclusively to tabular statements. Hitherto it has been customary to include in the "Statistical Register" a great deal of matter altogether foreign to statistics, and improperly placed in a volume designated by that name. I have, therefore, under your sanction, separated the nominal returns of the Civil, Ecclesiastical, and Military Establishments from the statistical returns, and presented them to you in a distinct volume, copies of which, under the name of the "Blue Book," were placed upon the tables of the two Houses of Parliament on the 9th July last.

Classification of the Tables. 2. I propose to offer a few remarks on the tables embraced in this volume, in explanation of their general arrangement, and in illustration of the results which they exhibit.

The Tables will be found classified under seven heads or parts:—

Part I. embraces those returns which relate to Population and Vital Statistics.
Part II. To Religion, Education, and Crime.
Part III. To Trade and Commerce.
Part IV. To Mills and Manufactures.
Part V. To Production (Mining, Pastoral, and Agricultural).
Part VI. To Monetary and Financial Matters.
Part VII. embraces a number of miscellaneous returns, not properly coming under any of the six previous heads.

The arrangement of the different returns under the foregoing heads will, it is hoped, be found natural, and easy for reference.

3. The returns are preceded by a table of contents, and by a copious index, to which is added, a table exhibiting a complete statistical view of the progress of the Colony from the year 1821 to 1862 inclusive, compiled from authentic records.

It is to be regretted that this table cannot safely be carried further back. The defective state of the public records relating to the earlier period of the Colony's history present insuperable obstacles to the compilation of reliable returns previous to the year 1821.

Fragmentary statistics may be gathered from the books of early historical writers; but as I cannot authenticate them by reference to official data it is thought better not to admit them into the table.

Part I.

Population, Immigration, &c.

4. The tables classified under this head embrace all those returns which refer to the number, condition, and progress of the people, to the rates of wages, and prices of provisions and clothing.

They are 19 in number.

The first table gives the estimated population at the end of the year, which is arrived at by adding to the numbers of the preceding year the excess of births over deaths, and the excess of immigration over emigration. The figures stand thus:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Estimated population on 31st December 1861 -	202,099	156,179	358,278
Increase by births over deaths - - -	4,041	4,869	8,910
Increase by arrivals over departures - -	—	916	916
	206,140	161,964	368,104
Decrease by departures over arrivals - -	609	—	609
Estimated population on 31st December 1862 -	205,531	161,964	367,495

The net increase was 9,217 souls, or at the rate of 2·57 per cent. NEW SOUTH WALES.

The males increased 1·69 per cent., and the females 3·70 per cent., on their own numbers respectively.

There are no means by which the overland migration with the adjacent colonies can be ascertained, and it is impossible, except by a general census, to determine to what extent the numbers are affected from year to year by this disturbing cause.

Looking to the returns of the last decade, it may be interesting to compare the increase of population in the two quinquennial periods. From 1852 to 1857 inclusive there was an accession of 97,233 souls to the population, that is, 47· per cent., or at the rate of 9·2 per cent. per annum. The males increased from 118,687 to 171,673, or 45· per cent.; the females from 89,567 to 133,814, or 49· per cent. From 1857 to 1862 inclusive the increase was 62,008 souls, that is, 20· per cent., or at the rate of 4· per cent. per annum.* The males increased from 171,673 to 205,531, or 19· per cent.; the females from 133,814 to 161,964, or 21· per cent. During the first period we were indebted to immigration for the largest share of our annual increase; during the latter period we owe more to the natural increase of the population by births.

At the end of 1852 the females bore a proportion of 755 to each 1,000 males; at the end of 1857, they bore a proportion of 779 to each 1,000 males; at the end of 1862, they bore a proportion of 788 to each 1,000 males.†

5. The tables relating to births, marriages, and deaths having lately formed the subject of a special report, need but passing comment in this place. Births, marriages, and deaths.

The increase to the population by births was 15,434, being at the rate of 42· per 1,000 on the estimated population,‡ at the middle of the year. This was nearly one to every 1,000 below the average of the five previous years. The marriages numbered 3,326, or at the rate of 9·09 per 1,000, being rather under the average of the five previous years. The deaths numbered 6,524, or at the rate of 17·83 to every 1,000 of the population, rather over the average of the five previous years. The net increase, by excess of births over deaths, was 8,910, or at the rate of 24· to each 1,000 of the population.

6. The addition to the numbers of the people by arrivals seaward, inclusive of 1,030 Chinese immigrants, was 15,386, but against this we have to write off departures to the extent of 15,079; the gain, therefore, from outward sources, was very small indeed,—only 307 souls. Immigration.

The efflux is due, in part, to the rush which commenced about the middle of the past year to the Otago gold fields, for it appears that no less than 3,445 people§ left the colony for New Zealand before the end of the year, but few of whom have as yet returned, 1,118 Chinamen, moreover, took their departure for home; and both to Victoria and Queensland there was a considerable migration.

The least unsatisfactory feature of this emigration is, that it has been confined principally to males. Out of the numbers which took their departure during the year, there were 3,114 females only to 11,965 males.

7. The returns of immigration for the ten years, 1853 to 1862 inclusive, exhibit the results shown in the following table, viz.:—

	Assisted.		Voluntary.		Total.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
5 years—1853 to 1857 - -	24,248	25,455	14,311	9,017	38,559	34,472
5 years—1858 to 1862 - -	9,967	9,372	57,982	14,571	67,949	23,943
Totals—10 years - -	34,215	34,827	72,293	23,588	106,508	58,415

From these figures it would appear, that whilst the assisted immigration has been conducted with due regard to the equalization of the sexes, the voluntary immigration sets at nought this important social consideration. A preponderance of 48,705 males, or over two-thirds of the arrivals at their own expense during the ten years, would seem to indicate the necessity for greater attention to female immigration, in order to promote the proper balance of the sexes.

8. The statistics of charitable institutions are interesting in two points of view; first, as indicating the extent of eleemosynary aid afforded by the community; and, secondly, as exhibiting the proportional amount of helplessness and distress to the great body of the people, taxing as it were the industry of the strong and active for the maintenance of the decrepit, maimed, and indigent. Charitable Institutions.

Turning to Table 10, it will be seen that there were at the end of 1861, in the different hospitals, asylums, and orphan schools, as follows, viz.:—

	Sex not stated.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In-door - - - -	—	1,785	1,303	3,088
There were receiving out-door relief -	‖488	1,533	1,109	3,130
Totals - -	488	3,318	2,412	6,218

* The separation of the Northern Districts took place during the second quinquennial period, viz., 1st December 1859.

† Eliminating the Chinese population, amounting to 12,986 souls, all males, the census of 1861 exhibited the proportion of 821 females to every 1,000 males.

‡ 365,741. § 3,094 males, 351 females. ‖ Families.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

For the support and accommodation of these people there was received—

	£	s.	d.
From the Government	54,683	19	4
From private contributions	17,044	17	1
Together	71,728	16	5

The actual disbursements were 200*l.* short of this sum, the average cost per head of the numbers relieved being about 11*l.* 10*s.* each. The proportion of almspeople to the total population was 17 in each 1,000, and the cost of their maintenance, distributed over the entire community, was at the rate of 4*s.* per head.

Comparison, 1861 and 1862.

9. I have referred to the statistics of 1861, in order to institute a comparison with those of the succeeding year. It appears then, that at the end of 1862 there were in the several hospitals, asylums, and orphan schools in the Colony—

	Sex not stated.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In-door	—	1,908	1,228	3,136
Receiving out-door relief	*1,805	1,495	917	4,217
Totals	1,805	3,403	2,145	7,353

These figures show an increase of 1,135 on the returns of the previous year.

Towards the support of these 7,353 almspeople there was contributed—

	£	s.	d.
By the Goverument	59,812	13	8
By private subscriptions	13,203	18	9
Together	£73,016	12	5

The falling off in the amount received from private sources is very remarkable, being 3,841*l.* less than it was in 1861. The actual disbursements were 5,491*l.* short of the receipts, and the average cost per head was 9*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, that is, 46*s.* per head within the expenditure of 1861. Whether these results are owing to the fact of the Government having taken into their own hands the asylums for the infirm and destitute I am not prepared to say, but they are noticeable traits in the returns.

The proportion of almspeople to the population was 20 in each 1,000, being an increase of three on the returns of the previous year, whilst the cost to each person in the Colony was at the rate of about 3*s.* 8*d.* per head, or 4*d.* less than in 1861.

I should state that the return is defective, inasmuch as it does not embrace the particulars with regard to the Maitland Hospital, and St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney. Several fruitless applications were made to the officers of these institutions, and I could not keep the returns longer open.

Wages.

10. The prospect held out to the labouring classes at home by the rates of wages, prices of provisions and clothing and the principal articles of consumption in the Colony, being a question of some importance to our countrymen, may not be deemed unworthy of passing notice, and as being intimately connected with the subject of population the tables have been introduced at the end of this part of the work. The Return No. 18., which exhibits the average rates of wages obtaining during the last 10 years, shows a decided increase in the remuneration to female servants employed in the performance of domestic offices. The skilled artizan commanded an average daily wage of 10*s.*, without board or lodging, and farm labourer shepherds, from 30*l.* to 40*l.* per annum, with board and lodging.

The wages of female domestic servants ranged from 20*l.* to 40*l.*; cooks, laundresses, and upper nurses commanding the higher rates.

Prices.

11. The prices of clothing and provisions ruled, on the average, somewhat lower than is shown in the return of the previous year.

Wheat averaged	7*s.* per bushel.
Bread ,,	4*d.* the 2 lb. loaf.
Rice ,,	3*d.* per lb.
Tea ,,	2*s.* per lb.
Sugar ,,	4*d.* per lb.
Meal ,,	4*d.* per lb.
Butter ,,	1*s.* 6*d.* per lb.
Cheese ,,	9*d.* per lb. for colonial.
Potatoes ,,	8*s.* per cwt.
Candles ,,	7*d.* per lb.

As the dissemination of knowledge with regard to our social economy is one of the chief objects in view in publishing the annual statistics, I need not apologize for giving such prominent notice to the tables, which are framed by the Immigration Department, to supply information on a subject of such paramount importance to emigrants in the Mother Country. I may state that the information upon which the table is based is collected from all parts of the Colony, and the average is struck upon the results of the whole.

* Families.

PART II.

Religion, Education, and Crime.

Religion.

12. The Ecclesiastical Return embraces the number of ministers, the amount of salaries paid from public funds, the Church accommodation and number of persons usually attending, to which are added the statistics of Sunday schools.

The number of ministers of religion officiating in the Colony was 354, being an increase of 27 on the returns of the previous year, distributed as follows, viz. :—

	1861.	1862.	Increase.
Church of England	119	127	8
Roman Catholic	64	73	9
Presbyterian	51	59	8
Methodists	56	54	—
Congregationalists	17	19	2
Baptists	7	10	3
Unitarian	1	1	—
Jews	4	5	1
Christian Israelites	8	6	—
Totals	327	354	31
Decrease			4
			27

State Aid.

The sums paid out of State Funds for religious purposes, principally in salaries, were as follows, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Church of England	17,932	17	2
Roman Catholic	10,161	1	5
Presbyterians (Synod of Australia)	3,527	0	0
Wesleyan Methodists	1,835	7	7
Total	33,456	6	2

Church accommodation.

There were 270 churches and 447 chapels, or buildings used as such, providing accommodation for 119,075 people, that is rather under one third of the total population, having an average attendance of 86,674, or under one fourth of the population.

The proportion of persons incapacitated by extreme youth and old age from attending public worship may be put down at 20 per cent., or one fifth of the people.

Sunday schools.

13. The statistics of Sunday schools exhibit a decrease of five on the numbers of the preceding year, but there is a small increase in the number of scholars. Much difficulty is experienced in the collection of these returns.

They show the following results ; viz.—

Denomination.	Schools.	Teachers.		Scholars.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Church of England	128	381	542	3,476	4,017
Roman Catholics	66	130	150	2,063	2,287
Presbyterians	44	115	119	805	968
Methodists	143	548	538	4,359	4,757
Congregationalists	16	124	107	950	1,150
Baptists	8	45	35	263	267
Totals	405	1,343	1,491	11,916	13,446

Each teacher's class averaged, for religious instruction, as under :—

Church of England	8 scholars.
Roman Catholic Church	15 ,,
Presbyterian Church	7 ,,
Methodists	8 ,,
Congregationalists	9 ,,
Baptists	6 ,,

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Education.

Schools.

14. The total number of educational establishments in the Colony was 925, an increase of 76 on the return for 1861.

The returns for the two years are as follows:—

Schools.	1861.	1862.	Increase.
Denominational - - -	278	305	27
National - - - -	178	208	30
Private Schools - - -	387	405	18
University and Colleges - -	2	3*	1
Increase - - - - -			76

The number of scholars under tuition exhibits an increase of 4,337, as appears by the following comparison, viz. :—

	1861.	1862.	Increase.
Orphan Schools and Destitute Asylum -	652	659	7
Denominational - - -	16,572	18,584	2,012
National - - - -	11,400	13,392	1,992
Private Schools - - - -	9,087	9,454	367
	37,711	42,089	4,378
University and Colleges - -	163	122	Decrease 41
Increase - - - -			4,337

Estimate of number of children not receiving education.

It should be noticed that in no one year of the last decade do the returns exhibit so large an addition to the number of children under tuition.

15. By the census of 1861, from 5 years of age up to 10, there were 41,664† children. From 10 years up to 15 years of age there were 35,717,‡ together 77,381 boys and girls of the educable age. Of this number many, perhaps, may be considered by their parents too young to go to school, and many are taken from school and put out into the world before arriving at the age of 15. It is impossible to ascertain with any degree of accuracy the numbers in either case. Many children receive instruction at home. Many, moreover, whose parents are incapable of imparting instruction, and who would gladly pay for it for their children, are so situated as to be beyond the reach of a school, and the number of these we cannot fairly estimate. All that we know for a certainty is, that between the ages 5 and 15 years there are from 77,000 to 78,000 boys and girls in the Colony, and that there were under some degree of instruction, during last year, other than home teaching, 42,211§, or 54 per cent. Deducting the 9,454 scholars educating at private schools (expense not stated), the total cost of their education for 1862 was 135,314*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*, or at the rate of 4*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* per head.

Denominational schools.

The denominational schools educated 18,584 children, at a total cost of 47,657*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*, or at the rate of 2*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* per head; of which 32,369*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*, or 1*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* per head, came out of the Public Treasury, and 15,288*l.*, or 16*s.* 5*d.* per head, was contributed from private sources.

National schools.

The national schools educated 13,392 children, at a total cost of 41,701*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*, or at the rate of 3*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* per head; of which 30,936*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*, or 2*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* per head, came from the Public Treasury, and 10,765*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, or 16*s.* 1*d.* per head, from private sources.

Crime.

16. The criminal returns (embraced in tables 24 to 37) are surrounded with much interest at all times, and more especially at this period, when the public mind is agitated with conflicting statements and opinions as to the degree of criminality which the state of society in the Colony presents.

I will endeavour, from the data before me, to set forth the number of offenders during the last five years who were committed for trial in the Superior Courts of the Colony, the number of convictions, and the numbers acquitted; and I will further show the proportion of crime to the population in each year, and compare it with the criminal statistics of England and Wales and with the sister colony of Victoria.

I will further show the number of persons laid hold of by the police, and dealt with in the Summary Jurisdiction Courts of the Colony, for the four years 1859 to 1862.

Felonies, &c.

17. With regard to the more serious offences tried at the criminal sittings of the Supreme Court and Courts of Quarter Sessions, during the last five years,‖ the returns exhibit the following results, viz. :—

---

* The Roman Catholic College of St. John's was not embraced in former returns.

† 20,849 boys and 20,815 girls. ‡ 18,082 boys and 17,635 girls.

§ 22,125 boys, 20,086 girls.

‖ Prior to 1858 there are no records of commitments for trial; the inquiry, therefore, cannot be pushed further back.

Year.	Felonies.			Misdemeanors.			Total Number of Commitments.
	Supreme Court.	Courts of Quarter Sessions.	Total.	Supreme Court.	Courts of Quarter Sessions.	Total.	
1858	234	382	616	53	111	164	780
1859	156	441	597	48	108	156	753
1860	127	412	539	40	106	146	685
1861	146	486	632	61	127	188	820
1862	151	526	677	48	154	202	879

It will be seen by the foregoing figures that the number of commitments decreased from 780 in 1858 to 685 in 1860, and that they then expanded again from 685 in 1860 to 879 in 1862. But there has been a considerable accession to the population since 1860. We must, therefore, to arrive at an accurate conclusion, ascertain what ratio the commitments bear to the population in each year.

Year.	Population at Middle of Year.	Commitments.	Ratio	
			Per 1,000.	Or
1858	309,790	780	2·518	1 in 397
1859	330,860	753	2·276	1 in 439
1860	330,840	685	2·070	1 in 483
1861	353,332	820	2·321	1 in 431
1862	365,741	*879	2·403	1 in 416
Mean of 5 years - -			2·317	1 in 433

These figures go to prove (in so far as the commitments may be admitted as an index of crime) that the moral state of the community was better in 1862 than it was in 1858.

Comparison with England and Wales.

18. We will now compare the results of our investigation with the criminal statistics of the Mother Country. The last returns published by order of the Secretary of State for the Home Department for England and Wales give the following results for the six years 1856 to 1861, viz.:—

Year.	Population.	Commitments.	Ratio	
			Per 1,000.	Or
1856	19,045,000	19,437	1·020	1 in 980
1857	19,305,000	20,269	1·050	1 in 952
1858	19,523,000	17,855	0·914	1 in 1,099
1859	19,746,000	16,674	0·844	1 in 1,184
1860	19,902,918	15,999	0·829	1 in 1,244
1861	20,119,496	18,326	0·901	1 in 1,098
Mean of 6 years - -			0·926	1 in 1,093

Comparison, New South Wales with England and Wales:—

New South Wales, mean of 5 years, 1858 to 1862 - 2·317 or 1 in 433.

England and Wales, mean of 6 years, 1856 to 1861 - 0·926 or 1 in 1,093.

Excess of commitments to population in New South Wales - - - - - - 1·391 to each 1,000.

It is proper here to state that the Criminal Justice Act of 1855, which authorized justices to pass sentences for short periods, with the consent of the prisoners, instead of committing them for trial to the sessions, had the effect of decreasing the commitments to no less an extent than 34·8 per cent., as compared with the average of the two preceding quinquennial periods. In order, therefore, to form a fair estimate of the moral state of the Colony, as compared with the Mother Country, we must push the inquiry further back through the ten years preceding 1856.

* The Returns from the Benches of Magistrates state the number of commitments for trial at 998. If this is correct it will give a different result. The ratio for 1862 would be 2·729 per 1000, or 1 in 366, and the mean of the 5 years would be 2·383 per 1000, or 1·423.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The table at foot* shows that for ten years, 1846 to 1855, the committals for trial ranged from 1,382 per 1,000 of the population to 1·683; the average being 1·550, or 1 in 647. We find then the comparison to stand as follows, viz.:—

New South Wales, 1858 to 1862 - 2·317, or 1 in 433.
England and Wales, 1846 to 1855 - 1·550, or 1 in 647.

Difference - - 0·767 per 1,000 of the population.

Comparison with Victoria.

19. The statistics of the Colony of Victoria enable me to extend the comparison with that Colony for the three years 1859 to 1861.

Year.	Population.	Commitments.	Ratio	
			Per 1,000.	Or
1859	530,262	1,428	2·693	1 in 371
1860	537,847	1,329	2·471	1 in 404
1861	541,800	1,283	2·368	1 in 422
Mean of 3 years - -			2·510	1 in 375

These figures exhibit the following comparative results, viz.:—

Victoria, 1859 to 1861 - - 2·510, or 1 in 375.
New South Wales, 1858 to 1862 - 2·317, or 1 in 433.

Difference - - 0·193 per 1,000 of the population in favour of New South Wales.

Convictions, &c.

20. The numbers convicted and acquitted, or not put upon trial, are placed in the following table opposite those committed for trial:—

Year.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Acquitted.
				Per Centage.	Per Centage.
1858	780	415	365	53·	47·
1859	753	406	347	54·	46·
1860	685	405	280	59·	41·
1861	820	437	333	53·	47·
1862	879	514	365	58·	42·
Total -	3,917	2,177	1,740	55·	45·

It would appear by these figures, that out of the total number committed for trial in the five years, 55·5 per cent. were prosecuted to conviction, and 44·5 per cent. were either acquitted or not placed upon trial; which of the two the returns do not specify.

* Year.	Population.	Commitments.	Ratio	
			Per 1,000.	Or
1846	16,925,000	25,107	1·483	1 in 674
1847	17,132,000	28,833	1·683	1 in 594
1848	17,340,000	30,349	1·750	1 in 571
1849	17,552,000	27,816	1·584	1 in 631
1850	17,766,000	26,813	1·509	1 in 662
Mean of 5 years - -			1·602	1 in 626
1851	17,983,000	27,960	1·554	1 in 643
1852	18,205,000	27,510	1·511	1 in 661
1853	18,403,000	27,057	1·470	1 in 680
1854	18,618,000	29,359	1·576	1 in 634
1855	18,787,000	25,972	1·382	1 in 723
Mean of 5 years - -			1·499	1 in 668
Mean of 10 years - -			1·550	1 in 647

21. The summary jurisdiction returns show that 15,410 persons (11,767 males and 3,643 females) were laid hold of by the police, and dealt with in the manner shown in the following table, viz.:— NEW SOUTH WALES.

Summary Jurisdiction.

Offences.	Taken into Custody.		Convicted.		Committed for Trial.		Discharged.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Against the person - -	4,501	1,736	2,722	1,276	276	12	1,503	448
Against property - -	2,810	529	1,069	278	651	49	1,090	202
Drunkenness - -	3,501	1,374	1,227	328	4	—	2,270	1,046
Under Vagrant Act, &c. -	35	3	24	2	—	—	11	1
Seamens' - - -	909	—	544	—	3	—	362	—
Prisoners of the Crown -	11	1	6	—	3	—	2	1
Total - - -	11,767	3,643	5,592	1,884	937	61	5,238	1,698

22. A comparative view of the number of offenders brought before the several courts of petty sessions in each of the four years, 1859 to 1862, is presented in the following table, viz.:— Comparison with former years.

Nature of Offences.	* Taken into Custody.	Convicted.	Committed.	Discharged.
Offences against the Person, Property, &c.	8,599	4,942	761	2,896
Drunkenness - - - - -	9,419†	7,815	—	1,582
Totals for the year 1859 -	18,018	12,757	761	4,478
Offences against the Person, Property, &c.	9,027	5,044	737	3,246
Drunkenness - - - - -	10,166	8,184	—	1,982
Totals for the year 1860 -	19,193	13,228	737	5,228
Offences against the Person, Property, &c.	7,920‡	4,390	828	2,701
Drunkenness - - - - -	8,817	6,941	8	1,868
Totals for the year 1861 -	16,737	11,331	836	4,569
Offences against the Person, Property, &c.	10,535	5,921	994	3,620
Drunkenness - - - - -	4,875	1,555	4	3,316
Totals for the year 1862 -	15,410	7,476	998	6,936

* The Returns do not show how many persons were apprehended more than once during the year, and therefore the figures must be read as referring to the number of offences, and not to the number of individuals, as one person may have been brought up possibly two or three times.

† Of this number no record kept of 22 as to how disposed of.

‡ Of this number one effected his escape from the lock-up.

From this table we find that the number of persons taken into custody in 1862 was below that of either of three previous years. The great decrease is attributable to the smallness of the numbers apprehended for drunkenness, which are put down at 4,875 against 8,817 in 1861, 10,166 in 1860, and 9,419 in 1859.

The increase in the number of offences against the person, &c. (namely, 10,535 against 7,920 the previous year,) is attributable to the operation of "The Sale of Liquors Licensing Act of 1862," which contains no penal provisions against drunkenness. The police were therefore compelled to take proceedings against drunkards under such other enactments as the circumstances of each case might warrant. The effect of this has been to swell up the offences against the person and property in a corresponding ratio to the reduction in the numbers apprehended for drunkenness.

23. There is a singular feature in the metropolitan returns which is deserving of notice. It appears that out of 1,314 persons brought before the magistrates at the Central Police Court, for offences "against the person," the females outnumbered the males to the extent of 128 ; and in 1,597 drunkards cases the females again outstripped the males to the number of 115 ; whilst in 983 cases for offences "against property" the males preponderate to the number of 311. Metropolitan returns.

The education of these people may prove of some interest, as it appears that out of 2,481 males, 109 or 4·39 per cent., can read and write ; 1,956, or 78·83 per cent., can read only ; and 416, or 16·76 per cent., can neither read nor write ; of 2,413 females, 47, or 1·94 per cent., can read and write ; 1,598, or 66·22 per cent., can read only ; and 768, or 31·82 per cent., can neither read nor write.

The numbers apprehended and brought before the justices in the metropolitan district amounted to 6,908, or nearly 45 per cent. of the total apprehensions throughout the Colony ; but it should be remarked that 909 of these were for offences committed at sea or on board of vessels in the harbour.

24. The returns published by the police department of Victoria, for the three years 1859 to 1861, enable me to make the following comparison as to the numbers laid hold of by the police in the two Colonies. Comparison with Victoria.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

It appears by the figures in the tables below that whilst the apprehensions by the police in Victoria bore a mean of 1 to every 18 of the population for the three years, the apprehensions by the police of New South Wales, for the four years 1859 to 1862, bore a mean of 1 to every 19 of the population.

VICTORIA.

Year.	Population.	Taken into Custody.	Ratio to Population.	
			Per 1,000.	Or
1859	530,262	30,357	57·249	1 in 17
1860	537,847	29,030	53·993	1 in 18
1861	541,800	25,766	47·556	1 in 21
Mean of 3 years - -			52·932	1 in 18

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Year.	Population.	Taken into Custody.	Ratio to Population.	
			Per 1,000.	Or
1859	330,860	18,018	54·458	1 in 18
1860	330,840	19,193	58·013	1 in 17
1861	353,332	16,737	47·368	1 in 21
1862	365,741	15,410	42·133	1 in 23
Mean of 4 years - -			50·493	1 in 19

Victoria - - - -	52·932, or 1 in 18.
New South Wales - -	50·493, or 1 in 19.
Difference - -	2·439

With regard, however, to the comparison of the criminal statistics of different countries, it is necessary, in order to arrive at a fair conclusion, to take into consideration the state of the law in each case. For instance, I have shown that an alteration in the criminal law of England in 1855 had the effect of decreasing the number of commitments for trial to the Superior Courts by no less than 34 per cent. Those persons, therefore, who may be interested in tracing the matter to an accurate conclusion, will have to study, not only the criminal laws both in England and Victoria, but any other exceptional circumstances affecting the question, before they can apply with any degree of certainty the comparison I have drawn. My duty is ended in presenting the facts as I find them.

Publican's licenses.

The number of certificates issued for publicans' licences was 2,122, against 1,733 granted the year before. This gives a public house to every 173 souls in the community.

PART III.

Trade and Commerce.

Imports and exports compared.

25. In order to convey some idea of the progress of trade, and to illustrate the development of our commercial relations with other countries, a glance at the imports and exports for the year under review will be attended with advantage.

It appears by the customs returns that the total imports for the year were valued at £9,334,645
And the exports at - - - - 7,102,562

Showing an excess of imports to the extent of - 2,232,083

Imports compared with 1861.

The imports were at the rate of 25*l.* 8*s.*, and the exports were at the rate of 19*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* per head of the population.

The imports, compared with the previous year, were as follows, viz. :—

	1861.	1862.	Increase.
	£	£	£
From the United Kingdom -	3,062,435	4,814,264	1,751,829
„ British Colonies -	2,338,641	3,068,593	729,952
„ Foreign States -	990,479	1,451,788	461,309
Totals - £	6,391,555	9,334,645	2,943,090

Showing an increase of very little short of three millions on the imports of 1861, and more than three millions and a half* upon the average † annual importations of the decade (1852 to 1861). NEW SOUTH WALES.

The exports exhibit the following comparison with those of the previous year, viz.:— Exports compared with 1861.

——	1861.	1862.	Increase.
	£	£	£
To the United Kingdom -	2,037,550	2,143,497	105,947
„ British Colonies -	3,025,661	4,725,212	1,699,551
„ Foreign States -	531,628	233,853	—
Totals - £	5,594,839	7,102,562	1,805,498
Decrease to Foreign States - -			297,775
Total Increase - £			1,507,723

The exports thus show an increase to the extent of rather more than a million and a half on those of the preceding year, and more than two millions and three quarters‡ upon the average§ annual exports of the 10 years 1852 to 1861.

26. The estimated value of exports, the produce of the Colony, as compared with 1861, was as follows, viz.:— Exports, the produce of the Colony.

——	1861.	1862.	Increase.	Decrease.
Seaward.	£	£	£	£
Grain - - - -	84,986	153,061	68,075	—
Butter and Cheese - - -	20,754	19,091	—	1,663
Live Stock - - -	49,280	62,057	12,777	—
Salt Meat - - - -	18,513	18,488	—	25
Hides and Leather - - -	100,459	105,458	4,999	—
Wool - - - -	1,396,426	1,283,818	—	112,608
Tallow - - - -	60,816	104,030	43,214	—
Timber - - - -	19,554	25,318	5,764	—
Gold - - - - -	1,890,908	2,715,037	824,129	—
Coal - - - - -	160,965	245,422	84,457	—
Totals - - £	3,802,661	4,731,780	1,043,415	114,296
Overland.				
Live Stock - - -	492,353	529,754	37,401	—
Wool, Hides, &c. - - -	380,284	527,005	146,721	—
Fish and other produce - -	3,360	10,352	6,992	—
Totals - - £	875,997	1,067,111	191,114	—
General Total - £	4,678,658	5,798,891	1,234,529	114,296

By the foregoing statement the net increase in the value of the exports of 1862 over those of 1861 appears to have been 1,120,233*l.*

The most remarkable increase is observable in the export of gold, amounting to the large sum of 824,129*l.*

The decrease in the dairy produce is attributable to the severe drought which visited the Colony in 1862, and to the depression in the wool market at home is traceable the lower value placed upon the export of that article seaward.

In the overland traffic an increase to the extent of 191,114*l.* is recorded, the total exports, viâ Albury, Moama, and the Murray, having exceeded a million in value, against 875,997*l.* the year before.

27. Of our great staple produce, wool, the export during 1862, as compared with the previous year, was as follows, viz.:— Wool.

——	1861.	1862.	Increase.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Seaward - - -	12,745,891	13,482,139	736,248
Overland and *viâ* the Murray	5,425,318	7,506,254	2,080,936
Totals - -	18,171,209	20,988,393	2,817,184

* 3,569,640*l.* † 5,765,005*l.* ‡ 2,789,997*l* § 4,312,565*l.*

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The most remarkable feature in this statement is the great increase in the export of wool, by way of Melbourne and Adelaide, from what are called the "Riverine districts," amounting, as it appears, to more than one-half the quantity shipped seaward from the ports of the Colony.

Shipping.

8. The returns of shipping inwards, as was to be expected, afford ample evidence of the increased trade which has been brought under notice. The number of vessels which entered the different ports of the Colony during 1862 was 1,493, with an aggregate tonnage of 454,837 tons. In the year 1861 the number of vessels arriving inwards was 1,327, and the aggregate tonnage 366,236 tons.

The inward shipping, both in numbers and tonnage, exceeds that of any year of the last decennial period.

The shipping trade inwards, with Great Britain, was in excess of either of the four previous years, but did not reach the average of the five years 1853 to 1857, whilst the outward trade appears to have diminished, as is shown below, viz.:—

	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1862 - - - -	111	81,114	32	28,018
Average of four years, 1858 to 1861 -	96	73,251	34	28,491
Average of five years, 1853 to 1857 -	157	109,539	51	36,507

PART IV.

Mills and Manufactures.

29. There is little to notice in the progress of our manufacturing industry. By slow degrees, horse, wind, and water mills are giving way to steam. In 1853 there were 72 steam mills for grinding and dressing grain; in 1862 there were 131.

In 1853 there were 141 manufactories or works conducted by machinery; in the 10 years ending with 1862 they had increased to 859.

Five years ago the pastoral districts could boast of no more than 23 machines to economize labour, or establishments worked by machinery, 10 of the number being appropriated to converting sheep and cattle into tallow; in 1862 the number had increased to 155.

Woollen cloth.

30. The manufacture of woollens in 1862 exhibits a decrease on the returns of the previous year. In 1861 there were eight establishments in work, producing 145,393 yards of cloth and tweed. In 1862 there were only five in work, producing 128,720 yards. Since the year 1854, the woollen manufacture seems to have declined, the quantity produced in that year being 184,555 yards. The returns of the last three years, however, afford evidence of its revival, although it has not reached what it was nine years ago.

Soap and candles.

31. The manufacture of soap and candles does not exhibit so marked an increase as the progress of the population would lead one to expect. In 1854 there were 18 establishments, producing 74,878 cwt.; whilst in 1862 there were 30 establishments, producing only 79,117 cwt. During the intermediate years the manufacture gives evidence of a fitful pursuit of this useful branch of industry, in 1859 the quantity produced being as low as 32,768 cwt.

It may be fairly presumed that the manufacture is regulated and kept down by importations from the Mother Country.

Tobacco.

32. The manufacture of tobacco would appear to have taken a start since the supply from America has fallen short. The production in 1862 was 3,755 cwt., against 1,587 cwt. the previous year; indeed in no year of the preceding decennial period has the manufacture of this article shown so great activity.

Refined sugar.

33. The manufacture of refined sugar is also greatly on the increase. In 1853 there were three establishments in operation, producing 81,200 cwt.; in 1862 there was 166,900 cwt. produced by two establishments. The average annual production of the last five years has been 147,684 cwt., or 19,216 cwt. below that of 1862.

Tallow.

34. The manufacture of tallow, although the number of cattle boiled down exceeded by nearly 18,000 the number so disposed of during 1861, fell short of the produce of that year by more than 2,000 cwt.

The number of sheep and cattle rendered into tallow in the two years, and the produce, were as follows:—

	1861.	Produce. Cwt.	1862.	Produce. Cwt.
Sheep - -	6,901	43,353	3,241	41,287
Cattle - -	30,528		48,097	

Since the year 1853 the returns do not show so great a slaughter of horned cattle for tallow as took place during last year. The deficiency in the quantity of tallow produced is attributable to the inferior condition of the stock, owing to the severe drought.

PART V. NEW SOUTH WALES.

Production.

35. We now come to the consideration of our mining operations. And first, as to the collieries, which afford evidence of unwonted activity. It is satisfactory to find that the production of coal has more than recovered the ground it lost in 1861, owing to the disagreement which unfortunately prevailed during a part of that year between the principal coal companies and their miners. The number of mines in actual working operation in 1862 is stated at 30, producing 476,522 tons of coal of the value of 305,234*l.* It seems that no less than 15 new mines have been added to the number which were in operation in 1861, and that the result was an increased production of 134,455 tons. Collieries.

The development of the coal fields of the Colony during the last decade is a very remarkable feature in these returns, The production of the mines for the five years 1853 to 1857 was 750,921 tons, whilst the production for the five years 1858 to 1862 was 1,712,061 tons, showing an increase of very little short of a million tons in the five years.

The export of coal in 1862 amounted to 308,782 tons, against 207,780 tons the previous year. Our principal customers are Victoria, South Australia, and New Zealand, and large shipments are made to China and other Foreign Countries. The shipments to the neighbouring colonies average about two-thirds of the total exports.

The price of good screened coal at Newcastle ranged from 12*s.* to 14*s.* per ton.

36. A silver mine was opened near "Moruya" on the southern coast of the Colony, on the 13th August 1862, and 266 tons of ore was taken from it before the end of the year, but the value is not stated. Silver, iron, and copper.

The Fitz Roy Iron Mine was not worked.

Two copper mines in the district of Orange produced 2,200 tons of ore, of the value of 12,000*l.* sterling.

37. The total results of our gold mining operations for the year manifest increased success. Gold.

The Western Gold Fields more than doubled the production of the previous year, whilst the Northern and Southern Gold Fields show a decrease, as will be seen by the following statement, viz.:—

Gold Fields.	1861.		1862.	
	Ounces.	Value.	Ounces.	Value.
		£		£
Western - - -	134,375	513,790	321,720	1,219,752
Northern - - -	35,266	132,931	28,242	106,065
Southern - - -	232,993	907,908	225,576	886,717
Totals - -	402,634	1,554,629	575,538	2,212,534

The increase in the quantity of gold produced was 172,904 ounces, in value 657,905*l.*

The quartz reefs in the western districts afford evidence of extreme richness; and it is probable that their resources will receive extraordinary development, through the application of capital and machinery which is being brought to bear upon them.

38. Connected with the production of gold, there is a Return No. 143., included in Part 7., showing the number of miners' rights and business licences issued in the year 1862, to which in this place it may be interesting to refer, as evidencing the increased amount of industry engaged in bringing about the results set forth in the last paragraph. The following figures represent the number of licences issued to miners in each of the two last years, viz.—

——	1861.	1862.	Increase.	Decrease.
Western Gold Fields - -	7,050	17,183	10,133	—
South-western Gold Fields -	6,118	4,517	—	1,601
Southern Gold Fields - -	1,242	1,543	301	—
Northern Gold Fields - -	1,834	1,795	—	39
Totals - -	16,244	25,038	10,434	1,640

There is thus shown to have been a net increase of 8,794 upon the number of licences issued in 1861.

Assuming that each miner's right or licence represents an individual, and that its possessor was occupied during the whole year in the search for gold, it would appear by the return of production that as nearly as possible 23 ounces of the precious metal (supposing it to be equally divided) would fall to the lot of each man. This, at the mint value (3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* per oz.), would produce an average wage of 88*l.* 13*s.* per annum, or at the rate of 1*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* per week per man.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Agriculture.

39. There is no subject of more general interest than the occupation and cultivation of the soil. It has been my endeavour, since the statistics of the Colony were placed in my hands, to render the agricultural returns as perfect as possible, so that the annual progress made in this important branch of industry might be clearly indicated. I have endeavoured, on the present occasion, to distinguish freeholders from leaseholders, and the extent of holding owned or occupied by each. I have tried, moreover, to ascertain, in addition to the extent of land in cultivation, the quantity enclosed but not in cultivation, as well as the extent of holdings unenclosed. I regret, however, that the returns do not enable me to present the information with any confidence. The figures which relate to the total extent of holdings can only be accepted an approximation to the truth; but as regards the extent of land under tillage, the returns are as accurate, probably, as it is reasonable to expect under the present system of collection. We will first glance at the number of holders of land, and the estimated total extent of holdings.

40. The following results, distinguishing the pastoral from the settled districts, are elicited by the inquiry, viz.:—

Freehold and Leasehold.

	Freeholders.*	Leaseholders.	Freehold.	Leasehold.
	No.	No.	Acres.	Acres.
Pastoral - -	5,185	1,343	1,113,227¾	51,883,286
Settled - -	9,246	6,615	3,123,770½	3,081,658
Totals - -	14,431	7,958	4,236,998¼	54,964,944

* It should be borne in mind that the inquiry extends only to holders of land exceeding one acre, and not to small town or surburban proprietors.

According to this statement, the extent of purchased land averages 215 acres to each freeholder in the pastoral districts, and 338 acres to each freeholder in the old settled districts, whilst the extent of leasehold land averages 41,610 acres to each leaseholder in the pastoral districts, and 466 acres in the settled districts.

Comparison with former year.

41. In the returns of the previous year the free and leasehold were not separately distinguished, but putting the two classes together, the comparison stands thus:—

31st March 1862 - - - - -	21,175 holders.
31st March 1863 - - - - -	22,389 „
Showing an increase of - -	1,214 holders.

Putting the extent of holdings lease and freehold together, a small deficiency is noticeable in the latter returns. The extent was estimated,—

On 31st March 1862, at - - - -	63,536,457 acres
And on 31st March 1863, at - - - -	63,201,943 „
Showing a decrease of - - -	334,514 acres.

The area of squatting runs, has but in a few cases been accurately defined, and therefore these figures can only be regarded as a rough approximation to the truth.

42. With reference to the extent of land actually under tillage, and the produce thereof, we may regard the returns with more favour. I have no doubt they convey as fair a picture of the quantity of land in crop, and of its estimated production, as the nature of the inquiry and former experience would seem to justify us in expecting.

The extension of agriculture in the pastoral districts is one of the most prominent features in the returns, as will appear by a glance at the following statement, showing the acreage in crop on the 31st March 1862 and 31st March 1863, viz.:—

Districts.	1862.	1863.	Increase.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Pastoral - -	43,228	55,490	12,262
Settled - - -	254,347	246,648	7,699 Decrease
Totals - -	297,575	302,138	4,563

There is here a decrease of 7,699 acres in the exhausted soils of the old settled districts, and an increase of 12,262 acres in the virgin soils of the pastoral districts, leaving a net increase of land under tillage to the extent of 4,563 acres. NEW SOUTH WALES.

43. We will inquire now, how this area has been cropped, and compare it with the previous year. The following tabular form is perhaps the most simple way of conveying the results:— Nature of crop.

	31st March 1862.	31st March 1863.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Wheat	129,375¾	117,854¾	—	11,521
Maize	59,149⅓	78,232¾	19,083¼	—
Barley and Oats	41,799¾	50,001	8,201¼	—
Rye, Millet, and Sorghum	1,496	741	—	755
Sown Grasses	43,292¼	32,010	—	11,282¼
Potatoes	10,039¾	9,282¾	—	757
Vineyards	1,130	1,459½	329½	—
Gardens	8,707¾	8,410	—	297¾
Tobacco	223¾	895¾	672	—
Cotton	—	54¾	54¾	—
Other Crops	2,360½	3,196¼	835¾	—
Totals	297,575	302,138½	—	—

This statement exhibits a falling off in the breadth of land sown in wheat to the extent of 11,521 acres, and in sown grasses to the extent of 11,282 acres, attributable without doubt to the dryness of the season. On the other hand, we notice an increase in the maize crop to the extent of 19,083 acres, which the breaking up of the drought towards the end of the year afforded farmers the opportunity of planting. There is also an extension of vineyard of 329 acres, and of tobacco of 672 acres, owing to the interruption of our regular supplies from America, and the consequent increase in price; and with these must be noticed an entirely new feature in the returns, namely, 54½ acres of cotton, 17 acres of which were sown in the Clarence district, 12 acres in the county of Macquarie, and the rest in small quantities in other parts of the Colony.

Produce.

44. The acreage sown in wheat for grain in 1862 was 108,136 acres, against 123,468 acres in the previous year, showing a decrease of 15,332 acres. The produce of the sowing of the two years was as follows:— Wheat.

	Bushels.	Bushels per Acre.
1861	1,606,034	13
1862	1,054,954	9
Decrease	551,080	4

The serious effects of the drought of 1862 are here manifested in the diminished production by no less than 551,080 bushels, or at the rate of four bushels per acre.

45. The average yield of wheat for the five years 1854 to 1858 was estimated at 15 bushels per acre, and for the three following years, 1859 to 1861, at 13 bushels per acre. We have, therefore, to write down a loss of at least five bushels per acre on the yield of the last year.

The yield was at the rate of not quite three bushels for each head of the population, whilst the average consumption per head (including wheat for seed) is estimated at 7½ bushels per head. We have, therefore, to make up, by importations, for the large deficiency of 4½ bushels.

46. We will look to the importations, to see how far this deficiency has been met. It seems that we imported during 1862 of flour and bread 14,673 tons, of the declared value of 210,936*l.*, and of wheat 446,640 bushels, of the value of 128,382*l.* If we turn this wheat into flour, at the rate of 45 bushels to the ton, we get 9,925 tons, making a total importation of 24,598 tons of breadstuffs, to the value of 339,318*l.* In addition to which we imported—

	£
Of barley and oats to the value of	20,322
Of rice	100,012
And of gram, pollard, &c.	4,538
Making a total sum of	464,190

or at the rate of 1*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* per head of the population sent out of the Colony for grain and breadstuffs during the year.

Of this large sum, 268,835*l.* went to South Australia.

The foregoing calculations are for sea-borne importations only. The river-borne and overland importations, viâ the Murray, from Adelaide and across the frontier from Melbourne, exceeded 20,000*l.* in value.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Maize.

47. The crop which maintains the second place in the returns of New South Wales agriculture is maize. It appears that the breadth of land sown in this description of crop for grain in 1862 was 75,991 acres, against 57,959 acres the previous year; an increase of 18,032 acres.

The yield last year is estimated at 2,559,258 bushels, averaging 33¾ bushels per acre, against 1,727,434 bushels the year before, averaging 30 bushels per acre, which, taking one year with the other, may be taken as the average yield.

Barley and oats.

48. The breadth of land sown in barley and oats for grain was 12,535 acres, against 10,147 the previous year; an increase of 2,388 acres.

The produce exhibits a corresponding increase, having been returned in 1861 as 193,480 bushels, or at the rate of 19 bushels per acre, and in 1862 as 232,051 bushels, or 18 bushels per acre.

Potatoes.

49. The potato crop shows the effects of the dry season, in the extent of land planted, as well as in the yield. The area planted in 1862 was 9,282 acres, against 10,039 acres the previous year. The produce in 1861 was 30,941 tons, or at the rate of three tons to the acre. The produce in 1862 was 24,167 tons, or at the rate of 2½ tons to the acre.

Tobacco.

50. The production of tobacco, it will be noticed, has taken a jump from 296,464 lbs. in 1861 to 1,715,333 lbs. in 1862. This is from an increased area of 672 acres.

Cotton.

51. The produce of the new cotton fields must not be passed without notice. It appears that off 54 acres 7,743 lbs. were picked; that is at the rate of 143 lbs. per acre. Considering the extreme dryness of the season during the infancy of the crop, and the heavy rains which fell about the time of its maturity, these results are sufficiently encouraging to induce extended efforts.

Vineyards.

52. The extension of our vine culture is a subject of much interest and importance to the Colony, and it is satisfactory to notice a steady increase from year to year in the breadth of land planted. The returns show the number of acres used for wine-making and for table use separately, also the extent newly planted and as yet unproductive.

The following figures will afford a correct view of the progress of this important branch of industry during the last year, viz.:

	Wine-making.	Table Use.	Unproductive.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1861 - - -	561¾	278¾	289½	1,130
1862 - - -	794¾	307½	357¼	1,459½
Increase - -	233	28¾	67¾	329½

By this statement there appears to be an increase in the total extent of vineyard of 329 acres, and it should be noted that the returns do not embrace the small garden vineyards under one acre.

53. The produce of the last year's vintage was highly satisfactory, having exceeded in quantity per acre that of either of the three previous years, viz.:

	Acres.	Wine Gallons.	Gallons per Acre.
1859 - -	577	96,100	166
1860 - -	622	99,791	160
1861 - -	561	85,328	152
1862 - -	794	144,888	182

This comes up very nearly to the average produce of the vineyards of France.* In addition to the wine, 2,749 gallons of brandy were manufactured last year; a quantity also greatly in excess of previous years.

54. Of grapes for table use the crop was also very prolific, 420 tons having been taken from 307 acres; that is, over a ton and a quarter per acre; whereas in no previous year has the crop quite averaged a ton per acre.

55. Although the returns of last year show an increase in the breadth of land planted, it is by no means what it ought to be. Our fellow-colonists in South Australia are far outstripping us in this most important and profitable branch of industry. They had 4,777 acres of vineyard last year, against 1,459 acres in New South Wales. They produced 472,297 gallons of wine, against 144,888 gallons in New South Wales. Their increase in the last year was 859 acres; our increase the same year was only 329 acres. They exported over 20,000 gallons of wine last year; we exported 10,062 gallons.

Their population is 135,329, against our 367,495.

56. It will be profitable, perhaps, before leaving the agricultural statistics, to extend the parallel a little further, to see what this active and industrious community is doing, as compared with ourselves. They had 494,511 acres of land under tillage last year; that is, equal to 3·65 acres to each individual in the community. We had but 302,138 acres, equal to 0·82 acres to each person; that is, they had more than four times the extent of land under tillage to each head of the population than we had.

They had 320,160 acres under wheat last year; that is 2·40 acres to each person. We had, both for hay and grain, only 117,854, or 0·32 acres to each person; that is, they made more than seven-fold provision for the staff of life than we did.

* 190 gallons per acre.

Their wheat harvest produced 3,841,824 bushels, at the rate of 12 bushels per acre; ours produced 1,054,954 bushels, at the rate of nine bushels per acre. But this with us was an exceptional year. The average yield in New South Wales is about 15 bushels; the average yield in South Australia is about 12 bushels. NEW SOUTH WALES.

They exported 51,092 tons of wheat and flour, of the value of 633,241*l.*; we imported 24,598 tons, of the value of 339,318*l.*

This little digression from the subject in hand is not out of place. It may be useful in stimulating the agricultural industry of this Colony, and may be turned to profitable account in leading our people to the pursuit of that steady and persevering industry which, under great disadvantages of climate, so largely characterizes our neighbours in South Australia.

Live Stock.

57. In the face of the severe losses occasioned by the protracted drought of 1862, the increase in the amount of live stock was considerable. These returns are taken at the same time with the returns of agriculture on 31st March, in order to embrace the lambs of the previous spring, which are generally weaned in February.

The following figures will exhibit the increase in each description of stock upon the returns of the preceding year:—

	31st March 1862.	31st March 1863.	Increase.
HORSES.			
Pastoral Districts - -	77,914	100,795	22,881
Settled Districts - - -	155,306	172,594	17,288
Totals - -	233,220	273,389	40,169
HORNED CATTLE.			
Pastoral Districts - -	1,695,469	2,039,316	343,847
Settled Districts - - -	576,454	581,067	4,613
Totals - -	2,271,923	2,620,383	348,460
SHEEP.			
Pastoral Districts - -	4,214,114	4,436,337	222,223
Settled Districts - - -	1,400,940	1,709,314	308,374
Totals - - -	5,615,054	6,145,651	530,597

Horses show an increase at the rate of 17· per cent., cattle at the rate of 15· per cent., and sheep at the rate of 9· per cent. The serious effects of the drought are perceptible in the very small increase of sheep, particularly in the pastoral districts. In many parts of the Colony the lambs were destroyed, to save the lives of the mothers.

The number of pigs in the Colony was 125,541, against 146,091 the previous year, exhibiting a decrease of 20,550, or at the rate of 14· per cent.

PART VI.

Monetary and Financial.

58. The tables connected with the monetary and financial concerns of the Colony present themselves next for consideration.

The course of exchange on London during the year was 7· per cent. on bills under 95 days currency, 8· per cent. on bills from 95 to 125 days currency, and 9· per cent. on bills having a currency exceeding 125 days. The minimum purchase rate by the banks was ½ discount; the maximum was 1¼ premium.

The minimum selling rate was ¾ premium; the maximum 2½ premium. Both the purchase and selling rates ruled higher than they did in 1861 by fully 1· per cent.

59. The rates of interest allowed by the banks on fixed deposits were— Interest.

For 3 months, 2 to 4 per cent. per annum.
„ 6 „ 3 to 5 „ „
„ 12 „ 4 to 6 „ „

The savings' bank allowed five per cent. to depositors, and lent on mortgage at seven per cent.

60. The average amount of coin and bullion held by the banks was 1,625,897*l.*, against 1,547,390*l.*, the previous year; whilst the amount held at the end of the year was 1,404,715*l.*,* against 1,527,991*l.* at the end of 1861; a decrease of 123,276*l.* In connexion with this subject, it may be remarked that Coin and Bullion.

* Including coin and bullion in the Branch Royal Mint.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

in no year of the last decennial period, excepting 1857, has the amount of coin and bullion held by the mint and by the banks been so small as it was at the end of 1862.

Paper currency.

The average paper currency in circulation was 901,779*l.* against 887,429*l.* in 1861; whilst the notes in circulation on the 31st December 1862 were 857,486*l.*, against 868,359*l.* at the end of the previous year.

Bank deposits and discounts.

61. The quarterly average of the deposits in the several banks, and of the discounts for the two years 1861 and 1862, will be found by the following statement to exhibit an increasing accumulation of capital, and a larger amount of paper under discount, as well upon the year as upon each succeeding quarter of the year under review, viz.—

———	Deposits.	Discounts.
	£	£
1st Quarter, 1861 - -	5,278,964	5,567,780
1st Quarter, 1862 - - -	5,267,137	5,842,110
Decrease - -	11,827	Increase 274,330
2nd Quarter, 1861 - -	5,235,947	5,450,537
2nd Quarter, 1862 - - -	5,381,601	6,004,485
Increase - -	145,654	Increase 553,948
3rd Quarter, 1861 - -	5,109,883	5,475,872
3rd Quarter, 1862 - - -	5,501,360	6,270,793
Increase - -	391,477	Increase 794,921
4th Quarter, 1861 - - -	5,029,691	5,764,059
4th Quarter, 1862 - -	5,544,780	6,602,297
Increase - £	515,089	Increase 838,238

From the foregoing figures it will be noticed that at the end of the last year the amount of cash deposits in the several banks exceeded by half a million what they did at the end of 1861; and that, to meet the increasing requirements of trade, the notes and bills under discount exceeded by 838,238*l.* what they amounted to at the end of 1861.

Savings bank.

62. As the statistics of savings' banks may be taken to some extent as an index to the prosperity of the industrial classes, we will look into this return somewhat closely. It appears that the deposits at the end of the year, with accumulated interest, amounted to 782,612*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*, to the credit of 14,956 depositors, classed as under, viz.—

———	Depositors.	Amount.	Average per Head.
		£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Up to £20 - -	6,028	47,515 7 3	7 17 7
„ 50 - -	3,329	107,402 9 3	32 5 3
„ 100 - -	2,621	186,689 14 8	71 4 6
„ 200* -	2,795	317,671 1 11	113 13 1
„ 300 - -	122	28,408 1 1	232 17 0
Exceeding 300 - -	61	28,695 2 4	470 8 2
Totals - -	14,956	£716,381 16 6	47 17 11

* It should be observed that interest is not allowed on sums exceeding 100*l.*

The comparison with the year 1861 stands as follows, viz.:—

———	Depositors.	Amount.	Average per Head.
		£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
In 1861 - -	13,282	615,408 17 1	46 6 8
Increase -	1,674	100,972 19 5	1 11 3
In 1862 - - -	14,956	£716,381 16 6	47 17 11

NEW SOUTH WALES.

We observe by this statement an increase in the number of depositors to the extent of 1,674, and in the deposits to the extent of 100,972*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*, or at the average rate of 1*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* per head. This may be taken as a fair indication of increasing prosperity or of greater providence amongst the industrial classes. To whichever cause it is to be attributed, perhaps to both, the result of the comparison may be viewed with satisfaction.

63. As everything connected with the working of such admirable institutions as banks for the savings of the working classes must be viewed with interest, I subjoin a table showing the number of depositors, amounts deposited, the average to each depositor, and the proportion of depositors to the total population of the Colony for the seven years 1856 to 1862, by which it will be seen that whilst the average amount per head is not so large as it was in the earlier years, yet the number of depositors has increased from 1 in 27 in 1856 to 1 in 24 in 1862.

Year.	Population.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.	Average Sums deposited to each Depositor.	Proportion of Depositors to Population.
	£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1856 - -	286,873	10,424	623,489 3 7	59 16 3	1 in 27
1857 - -	305,487	11,269	638,480 11 0	56 13 2	1 in 27
1858 - -	342,062	11,321	579,931 17 6	51 4 6	1 in 30
1859 - -	336,572	11,919	568,187 19 3	47 13 4	1 in 28
1860 - -	348,546	12,027	557,196 14 0	46 6 6	1 in 29
1861 - -	358,278	13,282	615,408 17 0	46 6 8	1 in 26
1862 - -	367,495	14,956	716,381 16 6	47 17 11	1 in 24

Coinage, Royal Mint.

64. In connexion with the monetary affairs of the Colony, the operation of the Sydney branch of the Royal Mint demands passing attention. The increased production of gold noticed in a former part of this report has, as a matter of course, affected the coinage, as well as the bullion issued from the mint. We find, on reference to the Table No. 117., the comparison between 1861 and 1862 stands as follows, viz. :—

There was received for coinage—

	Ozs.	£
In 1861 - - -	477,607 -	1,863,632 value.*
In 1862 - - - -	696,311 -	2,700,452 „
Increase in 1862 - -	218,704 -	836,820 „

There was issued in sovereigns, half sovereigns, and bullion :—

	In Coin.	In Bullion.
In 1861 - -	1,719,250 -	98,187
In 1862 - - - -	2,477,500 -	298,191
Increase in 1862 - -	758,250 -	200,004
Total - - - -	£958,254	

The revenue of the mint was 32,806*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* in 1862, against 22,568*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* the previous year.

Since the opening of the Mint, on the 14th May 1855, there have been received for coinage 3,025,348 ozs. of gold, of the value of 11,790,417*l.*; and there has been issued—

	£
In coin - - - - - -	10,912,250
In bullion - - -	871,399
Total value - - -	11,783,649

The total revenue derived from the mint, during the eight years, has been 142,920*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*

Public Accounts.

Revenue.

65. The state of the Public Accounts, in so far as relates to revenue and expenditure, forms a proper subject for consideration in analysing the year's statistics. The tables are compiled from the statement of the Auditor General, and are numbered 120 to 125.

The revenue and receipts for 1862 were 1,557,639*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, against 1,421,831*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* the year before, showing a net increase of 135,808*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* The following comparative statement will afford

* At 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* per oz.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

an insight into the sources of income from which the total revenue is derived, and show the increase or decrease respectively under each general head, viz.:

	1861.	1862.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs and Duty on Spirits distilled in the Colony	623,825 18 1	645,015 15 6	21,189 17 5	—
Gold and Mint Receipts	87,919 0 6	120,696 10 2	32,777 9 8	—
Lands	384,331 4 5	416,769 17 5	32,438 13 0	—
Rents, exclusive of Lands	20,207 15 1	22,675 10 6	2,467 15 5	—
Licences	71,858 19 9	74,002 15 5	2,143 15 8	—
Postage	48,167 18 6	56,305 5 3	8,137 6 9	—
Fines and Fees	30,227 9 5	29,115 14 5	—	1,111 15 0
Railways	75,629 15 2	97,029 9 11	21,399 14 9	—
Telegraphs	16,852 11 8	23,440 2 11	6,587 11 3	—
Miscellaneous	37,359 16 0	34,291 3 0	—	3,068 13 0
Pilot, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues	13,307 16 7	17,152 3 8	3,844 7 1	—
Immigration	12,143 0 0	21,145 8 6	9,002 8 6	—

Debentures.

The amount realized by the sale of debentures in 1862 was 644,285*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, against 394,457*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* the previous year, that is, 249,828*l.* 4*s.* in excess of 1861. It should be understood that debentures are only issued to meet the exigencies of the services for which loans are authorized by Parliament. They are issued in sums of not less than 100*l.*, having, for the most part, 30 years' currency, and bearing interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum.

Expenditure.

66. The disbursements out of revenue in 1862 amounted to 1,369,328*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, besides an unclassified expenditure, consisting of interest on loans, &c. to the extent of 224,459*l.* 7*s.*; together, 1,593,788*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

The total expenditure in 1861 was 1,529,788*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*; the increase in 1862 was, therefore, 64,000*l.*, minus 1*s.*

The receipts for 1862 were at the rate of 4*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* per head of the population, and the disbursements at the rate of 4*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*

Public Debt.

According to the Return No. 125, which will be found at page 148, the actual liability of the Colony, on account of loans, at the end of 1862 (secured upon the consolidated revenue), was 4,143,180*l.*, the annual interest payable on which amounts to 206,954*l.** The debt was as near as possible at the rate of 11*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* per head of the population at the end of the year, and the interest at the rate of 11*s.* 3*d.* per head.

Taxes, duties, &c.

67. At the end of the sixth part of the work will be found tables of taxes, duties, fees, &c. The customs duties remain the same as they have been since the remodelling of the tariff in the year 1855, with the exception of the duty on unmanufactured tobacco, which has been reduced from 2*s.* to 1*s.* per lb. by Act of Parliament, 25 Vict., No. 10., taking effect on 1st January 1862. These duties, as heretofore, form the only item of general taxation to which the people of the Colony are subjected. The amount of duties received at the Custom House on imports in 1862 was 609,372*l.*, and the duty paid on distilled spirits 35,643*l.*; together 645,015*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*† per head of the estimated population at the middle of the year.

PART VII.

Miscellaneous.

68. Part VII. of the volume consists of a number of miscellaneous returns which do not properly find a place under any of the previous heads.

The principal tables have reference to lands sold, granted, and selected; to mortgages on lands and live stock; to railway receipts and expenditure; public works; meteorology; post office; military and municipal matters; political franchise, &c.

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* The actual amount of interest paid on loans in 1862 was 186,676*l.*

† The Customs Revenue in England amounts to 18*s.* 7*d.* per head, and in Ireland to 7*s.* 11*d.* per head; but other sources of taxation bring up the annual average per head of the population in England to 2*l.* 11*s.* 7½*d.*, and in Ireland 1*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, viz.:—

	England.	Ireland.
	s. d.	s. d.
Excise Duties	13 6	9 10
Stamp	7 6	1 10¼
Land and assessed taxes	2 11	0 9
Income tax	9 1½	2 6¾

Land Sales.

69. The quantity of land sold (otherwise than conditionally) during the year exhibits a considerable decrease on the Returns of 1861, as will be seen by the following statement, viz.:—

	1861.		1862.	
	Acres.	Amount.	Acres.	Amount.
		£		£
Pastoral Districts - -	107,129	123,251	38,870	50,217
Settled Districts - -	82,807	126,029	28,422	48,512
Totals - -	189,936	249,280	67,292	98,729

It appears, however, by the Return No. 161, that 357,280 acres have been sold conditionally, under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, upon which the first instalment of 5*s.* per acre has been paid, amounting to 89,320*l.*; together making 188,049*l.*

The balance payable in 1865 upon the lands conditionally sold amounts to 267,960*l.*

It would further appear by the same return, that the following lands were disposed of under the several conditions established by the Lands Alienation Act of 1861, at the average price stated, viz.:—

Condition.	Area.	Average Price per Acre.
	A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auction—Town Lands - - -	489 1 4	25 5 6
„ Suburban - - - -	1,420 2 2½	10 13 5
„ Country - - -	29,729 0 1	1 2 4
Selection after Failure by Auction or Forfeiture - - - -	22,346 2 24	1 1 2
Improved Lots sold to Owners of Improvements - - - -	3,470 0 0	2 3 4
Sold under Return of Water Reservation -	2 2 0	6 8 0
Specially sold at appraised Price - -	6 3 0¼	10 16 4
Reclaimed Land sold at appraised Price -	2 0 9	24 16 0
Sold by Pre-emption - - -	30,619 3 14	1 0 11
Sold "conditionally" - - - -	357,280 2 21	1 0 0
Total - - -	445,367 0 35¾	—

The figures in this return differ materially from those given in Table 156, which gives the area sold "otherwise than conditionally," 67,292 acres; whereas we have here, exclusive of conditional sales, an area of 88,087 acres. This I am informed is owing to the pre-emptive purchases "actually paid" being included in one, and those "sanctioned, but not paid," in the other.

The actual receipts at the Treasury from the sale of lands in 1862 amounted to 216,988*l.*, against 222,594*l.* the year before.

Looking to the decennial table, and comparing the receipts of the two quinquennial periods, we find that the receipts of the first five years averaged 251,419*l.* per annum, and of the second five years 217,632*l.* per annum.

The total receipts during the latter five years amounted to 1,994,332*l.*, and of this sum 1,088,158*l.*, or 54·60 per cent., was derived from sales, and 906,174*l.*, or 45·40 per cent., from rent, assessments, and licences.

Public Works.

70. The return of public works carried on during the year exhibits a total expenditure of 687,895*l.*, classified as under, viz.:—

	£
Railways - - - - -	293,234
Electric telegraphs - - - - -	23,162
Main roads - - - - -	60,891
Bridges - - - - - -	12,860
Harbours and river navigation - - - -	84,381
Public works and buildings - - - -	105,040
Minor roads and bridges - - - -	57,138
Works not under the immediate supervision of the government - - - - -	51,189
Total - - - -	£ 687,895

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Of this sum it appears that there was some 295,901*l.* paid out of the general revenue, and 391,994*l.* charged to loans account.

Railways, Telegraphs, and Post Offices.

Traffic.

71. The railway returns for 1862 exhibit a largely increased traffic, both passenger and goods, compared with 1861.

The number of passengers (single and return) who availed themselves of this mode of travelling, on each of the great trunk lines, was as follows, viz.:—

——	1861.	1862.	Increase.
Great Northern - -	126,431	143,157	16,726
Great Southern - -	253,707	353,970	100,263
Great Western - -	58,882	92,129	33,247
Totals - -	439,020	589,256	150,236

The goods traffic was—

——	1861.	1862.	Increase.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Great Northern - -	59,538	156,230	96,692
Great Southern - -	36,290	40,755	4,465
Great Western - -	5,300	8,152	2,852
Totals - -	101,128	205,137	104,009

The receipts for each of the two years from the coaching traffic were—

——	1861.	1862.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Great Northern - -	11,393	14,205	2,812
Great Southern - -	31,418	37,272	5,854
Great Western - -	7,720	12,061	4,341
Totals - -	50,531	63,538	13,007

The receipts from the goods traffic were—

——	1861.	1862.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Great Northern - -	6,787	12,744	5,957
Great Southern - -	14,097	17,155	3,058
Great Western - -	2,781	7,001	4,220
Totals - -	23,665	36,900	13,235
Coaching and Goods -	74,196	100,438	26,242

Expenditure.

The working expenses of each of the two years were as follows, viz.:—

——	1861.	1862.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Great Northern - -	16,230	19,992	3,762
Great Southern - -	39,445	42,001	2,556
Great Western - -	5,719	7,032	1,313
Totals - -	61,394	69,025	7,631

The general results from the foregoing statements may be summed up thus; that, whilst the receipts have increased 35 per cent., the expenditure has increased only 12 per cent.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The expenditure of the year 1862 in the construction and extension of railways was as under:—

	£
Northern line	110,096
Southern line	126,929
Western line	72,337
Total	£ 309,362*

Electric Telegraph.

72. The working of the electric telegraph continues to exhibit marked success. The comparison with 1861 shows as follows, viz.:—

——	1861.	1862.	Increase.
Number of Telegrams	74,204	104,660	30,456
Amount received	£ 16,931	£ 25,081	£ 8,150

The distance travelled by the telegraphic wire in 1862 was 2,539 miles.

Post Office.

73. As postal matters are made the subject of a special report by the Postmaster-General, I need only here notice the general results.

The number of offices was increased from 340 in 1861 to 368 in 1862, and the extent of postal lines was increased from 9,569 miles in 1861 to 11,211 in 1862. The income and expenditure for each of the two years were—

——	1861.	1862.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Income	48,167	56,305	8,138
Expenditure	81,185	81,514	329

The excess of expenditure over income was 33,018*l.* in 1861, and 25,209*l.* in 1862, showing a decrease of 7,809*l.* on the working of the latter year, although the distance run was increased by 1,642 miles.

Meteorology.

74. The following figures will afford a comparative view of the rain-fall in the two years 1861–2 at the stations where observations were taken and recorded in an unbroken series.

——	Height above Sea.	1861. Rain-fall.		1862. Rain-fall.		Difference.	
	Feet.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.	Inches.	Days.
Armidale	3,278	41·08	143	17·17	99	23·91	44
Bathurst	2,333	29·82	91	16·87	59	12·95	32
Cooma	2,637	15·40	116	14·41	98	0·99	18
Goulburn	2,129	23·52	104	16·35	66	7·17	38
Sydney	145	58·36	157	23·99	109	34·37	48

The average fall of rain for the five places was 33·63 inches in 1861, and 15·87 inches in 1862. The average number of days in which rain fell was 122 in 1861 and 86 in 1862.

The observations taken at other places, being incomplete, cannot be used for the purpose of comparison.

The average rain-fall in the colony, for each of the five years 1858 to 1862, would appear to present the fluctuations shown below, viz.:—

——	Number of Days.	Inches.
1858	123	30
1859	104	27
1860	124	43
1861	117	34
1862	79	16

* Including trial surveys, compensation for land, &c. &c.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The irregularity of the observations at different places, in different years, will, however, admit of this result being taken as an approximation only to the truth.

Mortgages.

Mortgages on land.

75. The amount lent upon mortgage of real estate was less in 1862 than in any year since 1856, owing, doubtless, to the depreciation in the value of land, which is particularly evidenced in the returns of the last two years. The operations of the last five years, as exhibited in the figures below, will be found to support this view of the case, viz. :—

Year.	Mortgages.		Discharges.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£		£
1858	1,334	705,337	386	228,468
1859	1,122	874,643	406	289,760
1860	1,240	994,230	462	310,751
1861	1,150	691,233	483	315,282
1862	1,103	682,693	495	371,983

76. The liens on wool in 1862 do not reach one half the amount registered in 1861, whilst the mortgages on live stock show a result considerably in excess of the sum lent in that year. As the operations of the five years 1858 to 1862 may probably convey an approximate idea of the extent of capital invested in pastoral pursuits, by showing the sums lent upon this species of property, I append a statement of them :—

Year.	Liens on Wool.	Mortgages on Live Stock.
	£	£
1858 - -	134,006	968,405
1859 - -	195,670	1,516,710
1860 - -	112,752	1,614,890
1861 - -	178,797	1,120,384
1862 - -	87,487	1,312,245

The actual amount of mortgages on live stock registered in the general registry office during the five years was 6,532,635*l.*, and the discharges registered during the same period amounted to 2,615,695*l.*, leaving an undischarged balance of 3,916,940*l.* at the end of the last year on the register; but to what extent the balance may have been reduced by unregistered discharges I have no means of knowing.

Insolvencies.

77 The number of insolvencies in 1862 was smaller than in either of the four previous years, and the amount of liabilities under one half. The following statement will show at a glance the improvement in trade indicated by these returns, viz. :—

Year.	Number of Insolvencies.	Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
		£	£	£
1858 - -	386	689,112	453,189	235,923
1859 - -	348	499,787	241,385	258,402
1860 - -	511	835,825	541,745	294,080
1861 - -	463	589,727	335,340	254,387
1862 - -	314	263,867	155,593	108,274
Totals - -	2,022	2,878,318	1,727,252	1,151,066

By this statement we perceive that during the five years there have been 2,022 insolvencies, the aggregate liabilities amounting to 2,878,318*l.*, the assets being estimated at an average of 60 per cent., and the deficiency at an average of 40 per cent. Whether the actual results, on the winding up of the different estates, were as favourable as here indicated, there are no returns to show.

Military.

Volunteers.

78. The number of volunteers on the roll of the several companies, at the end of 1862, was 2,044, exclusive of the mounted rifles, the strength of which corps is not given in the return.

The strength of the artillery has increased from 267 in 1861 to 336 in 1862.

The Sydney Battalion of Rifles, consisting of 8 companies, which mustered 769 men in 1861, are reduced to 742, averaging 93 men to each company.

The Suburban Battalion, consisting of 6 companies, can boast of a small increase in its strength, from 363 in 1861 to 371 in 1862, averaging 62 men to each company.

The Local (Country) Corps, comprising 7 companies, show a small decrease in number, from 590 men in 1861 to 571 men in 1862, averaging 81 to each company.

Political Franchise.

79. The number of registered electors on the electoral rolls was 107,081, against 106,189 in 1861; an increase of 892. It would appear that 29 per cent. of the total population of the Colony, and 52 per cent. of the total *male* population, have the privilege of voting for members to serve in the Legislative Assembly. By the census of 1861 the proportion of males under 20 years of age to the total male population was 42 per cent., leaving 58 per cent. of 20 years old and upwards. It would appear, therefore, seeing that 21 is the age entitling persons to the franchise, that few, if any, who are entitled to vote, can be omitted from the rolls, there being a margin of only 6 per cent. to include the males of the age between 20 and 21 and such as may have escaped registration.

Miscellaneous.

80. Amongst the returns remaining to be noticed are those which relate to political and municipal affairs, to military expenditure, and to civil justice. I shall leave these, however, to speak for themselves, as they appear to present no new features calling for particular notice.

The passing comments which the perusal of the tables have called forth, and the figures which have been introduced to illustrate the results of the inquiry, will convey a general idea of the progress of the country during the year that has passed. Whilst there has been no very extraordinary development in any of the known resources of the country, nor any discovery of new fields of enterprise, excepting perhaps the opening of the silver mine at Moruya, the year has been marked by steady improvement in all the main branches of industry.

Trade has been more active, mining operations have been more successful, manufactures show a steady increase, more land has been brought into cultivation, and more capital has been directed to pastoral pursuits. Exceptional circumstances, however, intervened to rob the husbandman and small stockholder, in many parts of the country, of a fair return for their labour and capital. The drought which commenced in the early part of the year, and continued with almost unintermitting severity to its close, deprived the farmer in many districts of the fruits of his industry, and brought ruin to the door of many a small stockholder.

The evil effects of this visitation cannot be reduced to figures, but the great deficiency in the wheat and potato crops, and the small increase exhibited in the live stock returns (in the number of sheep more particularly), afford ample indication of its sinister influence.

81. In bringing this lengthy report to a close, I would take leave to recommend that a sum of money—say two thousand pounds—may be asked for from Parliament, to enable the Registrar-General to employ his own officers in the collection of the annual returns of agriculture and live stock. This course has been pursued in Victoria with very satisfactory results. The returns are more reliable, and are presented to Parliament with greater regularity, than was possible when the collection was intrusted to the police. The collection by the constabulary is open to two serious objections;—firstly, it interferes with their ordinary duties, and therefore is treated as of secondary importance; and, secondly, it challenges opposition on the part of those from whom information is sought, by reason of the feeling of compulsion associated in the minds of many persons with the functions of a policeman. Others, again, think the inquiry impertinent, or that the information may be used against their interest, in the shape of taxation of some sort or other.

All these objections have been overcome in the sister Colony, and the apprehensions of the farmers and stockholders for the most part allayed, by the employment of special collectors, under the Registrar-General, whose duty it is to explain the nature and purpose of the inquiry, and the importance of the results to the public at large, as illustrative of the settlement and progress of the country, and who are enjoined to strict secrecy as to the information supplied to them.

82. It is still a matter of regret that I am unable to present the statistics to you at an earlier period of the year. There is no reason why the returns, if promptly sent in at the time prescribed, should not be ready to place before Parliament by the middle of the year at the latest. The delay is not in the compilation, but in the difficulty of collection. Reminders have little effect, and when the returns at last come in they often bear evidence of having been prepared without due care, and not infrequently have to be returned for correction.

The compiler will take it as a favour, should any one discover any error or omission in the work, if he will point it out. It is not to be expected that the work can be preserved from the possibility of error; and the compiler would earnestly impress upon those who are charged with the duty of furnishing returns the necessity of looking carefully to their preparation. It is impossible for the compiler to prepare accurate returns from inaccurate data, and the necessary information to enable him to detect errors is rarely within his reach.

Statistics to be valuable must be accurate, and it has been my object, since the compilation of the annual tables was placed in my hands, to present them in a methodized shape, so as to be readily understood, and by the exercise of every possible care to impart to them such a degree of reliability as may fairly entitle them to public confidence.

I have, &c.

CHRIS. ROLLESTON,

Registrar-General.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of NEW SOUTH WALES for the last TEN YEARS, 1862 inclusive.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Convictions.	Mills, &c.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	Number of Acres under cultivation.	Live Stock.				Coal raised.	Land Sales.
					Schools.	Number of Scholars.					Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Value.	Amount realized.
															£	£
1853	231,088	8,860	2,569	4,176	420	25,660	604	143	141	139,014¼	139,765	1,552,285	7,929,708	71,395	78,059	211,035
1854	251,315	9,663	2,761	4,511	413	25,953	637	140	146	131,857	148,851	1,576,750	8,144,119	63,255	119,380	319,533
1855	277,579	10,344	2,765	4,022	476	27,243	526	147	‡255	171,100¼	158,159	1,858,407	8,602,499	68,091	89,082	270,636
1856	*286,873	10,097	2,778	4,203	565	29,426	461	154	‡314	186,033½	168,929	2,023,418	7,736,323	105,998	117,906	245,555
1857	305,487	12,501	2,902	4,846	550	29,236	395	157	‡284	184,513½	180,053	2,148,664	8,139,162	109,166	148,158	210,333
1858	342,062	13,802	2,992	5,883	653	33,236	415	169	295	223,295½	200,713	2,110,604	7,581,762	92,843	162,162	240,633
1859	†336,572	14,415	3,295	5,642	739	32,840	406	177	549	247,542¾	214,684	2,190,976	5,162,671	119,701	204,371	252,627
1860	348,546	14,233	2,945	6,562	798	34,767	405	193	745	260,798	251,497	2,408,586	6,119,163	180,662	226,493	155,316
1861	358,278	14,681	3,222	5,343	849	37,874	437	184	788	297,575	233,220	2,271,923	5,615,054	146,091	218,820	222,594
1862	367,495	15,434	3,326	6,524	925	42,211	514	181	859	302,138½	273,389	2,620,383	6,145,651	125,541	305,234	216,988

(*continued.*)

Year.	Shipping.				Exports, the Produce of the Colony.						Value of Total Imports.	Value of Total Exports.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool (Value).	Tallow and Lard (Value).	Oil, &c. (Value).	Gold.		Coal.			General.	Loans.	Ordinary.	Loans.
	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.				Quantity.	Value.	Value.						
						£	£	Ozs.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1853	1,048	336,852	1,061	341,540	999,896	134,708	25,490	548,052	1,781,172	81,078	6,342,397	4,523,346	828,725	158,752	632,621	50,000
1854	1,058	376,927	1,112	409,489	1,181,956	164,256	28,155	237,910	773,209	101,752	5,981,063	4,050,126	1,004,467	234,680	966,569	170,000
1855	1,152	353,323	1,185	362,482	1,078,017	123,255	20,770	64,384	209,250	58,893	4,668,519	2,884,130	800,989	859,721	886,724	788,300
1856	1,143	321,679	1,219	336,113	1,303,070	137,202	25,355	42,463	138,007	65,730	5,460,971	3,430,880	1,130,014	856,539	1,146,468	688,666
1857	1,100	351,413	1,204	377,147	1,275,067	82,134	32,306	253,564	983,850	45,960	6,729,408	4,011,952	1,185,562	345,575	1,104,995	438,333
1858	1,141	348,984	1,254	366,825	1,126,486	53,186	1,450	254,907	994,960	89,200	6,059,366	4,186,277	1,379,675	76,776	1,209,796	360,770
1859	1,250	363,121	1,299	387,015	1,458,005	37,275	532	435,995	1,698,078	132,984	6,597,053	4,768,049	1,522,668	816,822	1,425,028	433,138
1860	1,424	427,835	1,438	431,484	1,123,699	28,794	136	483,012	1,876,049	183,761	7,519,285	5,072,020	1,319,779	560,729	1,321,724	726,231
1861	1,327	366,236	1,391	379,460	1,396,426	60,816	—	488,293	1,890,908	160,965	6,391,555	5,594,839	1,448,610	394,457	1,540,005	433,224
1862	1,493	454,837	1,568	467,356	1,283,818	104,030	—	699,566	2,715,037	245,422	9,334,645	7,102,562	1,628,885	644,285	1,608,810	526,708

* The Census was taken in 1856, population as above.
1st March 1856 „ 266,189
1st March 1861 „ 350,860

† The reduction in the year 1859 was caused by the separation of Queensland from New South Wales.

‡ These figures exceed those in previous tables by the addition of Boiling-down Establishments.

QUEENSLAND.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General Sir G. F. BOWEN to the DUKE of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 20.)

Government House, Brisbane, Queensland,
May 12, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith six copies of the Statistical Register of Queensland for the year 1862. Prefixed is the usual Report of the Registrar General, for publication in the annual Parliamentary "Blue Book," exhibiting the general condition of the British Colonies.

In the concluding paragraph of the speech with which I recently opened the Session of the Queensland Parliament for 1863, I took occasion to congratulate the Legislature on the very remarkable results exhibited by the Statistical Register for the preceding year; of which I added the following brief analysis:—"It will be seen that our population "has doubled during the period of little more than three years which has elapsed since "the erection of these districts into a separate Colony. In all the other items the "returns show the progress of only two years, and yet during that brief interval our "revenue and trade (including both imports and exports) have nearly doubled. The "shipping, inwards and outwards, has increased by 75 per cent. Pastoral occupation "has advanced further towards the north and west over fully 400 miles of our territory. "The amount of land brought under cultivation has also increased by 100 per cent.; "and cotton has become one of our permanent staples. The returns of the amount of "coin and bank notes in circulation, and of the live stock in 1862, when compared with "the figures of 1860, exhibit an almost equal rapidity of progress."

3. It appears that, with the single exception of golden Victoria, in the first few years of its political existence, no other province of the empire has ever made such rapid progress as Queensland; and there is every reason to believe that our prosperity is solid and permanently progressive.

4. It will be observed from the date of this Despatch that I am this year enabled to forward the statistical returns of Queensland at an earlier period than seems to be usual of late in most of the principal colonies. For example, the Reports transmitted with the Colonial Statistics for 1860 from Australia and America were so much in arrear that they could not be published in London before the middle of 1862; that is, when they were 18 months old. In the case of long-settled and nearly stationary communities, this delay may not be of much importance; but in the case of Colonies progressing at the rate of Queensland it deprives the statistics of their practical value, and leaves to them merely an historical interest; and even that only, perhaps, in the sense in which history has been termed an "old almanack."

5. With the view of preventing for the future the inconvenience at which I have glanced, I this year recommended the Government of Queensland to put strictly in force in this Colony that part of the Queen's Colonial Regulations (Chapter VII. Sect. 4.) which provides for the stoppage of the salary of any public officer who may neglect to furnish the returns required from him during the first quarter of each year. My recommendation was adopted; and the consequence is, that the statistics were ready in good time. I venture to submit that a similar change would probably take place throughout the provinces of the Empire were the Colonial Office to issue a Circular directing the strict observance of Her Majesty's Regulations in this respect in the Crown Colonies, and recommending them for adoption in those Colonies where Parliamentary Government has been established.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. BOWEN.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 16.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT on the STATISTICAL REGISTER for 1862.

To the Honourable Robert George Wyndham Herbert, Esq., Colonial Secretary, &c., &c.

SIR,

Registrar-General's Office, Brisbane, April 1, 1863.

I have the honour to forward to you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, "The Statistical Register or Blue Book of the Colony of Queensland, for the Year ending the

QUEENSLAND.

31st December 1862," to which I have added, as on former occasions, a short report, containing some comparative tables illustrative of the rapid progress made by the Colony since its formation, and drawing attention to a few of the conclusions to which a consideration of these returns naturally leads.

Parliamentary.

The year 1862 was distinguished by two sessions of Parliament, being respectively the third and fourth of the first Parliament of Queensland. On the first meeting, Parliament sat only for a few days to pass an Act to prevent the introduction of diseased cattle into the Colony, and was then prorogued by proclamation. The second session was opened by his Excellency the Governor in person, on the 29th of April, and was prorogued by him on the 9th July. As regards the business of this session, a reference to the tables in the Register, Nos. VII. and VIII.,* shows that the number of bills passed was small in comparison with the number introduced. Amongst the most important Acts of the session were " The Common Law Procedure Act," " The Marine Board Act," and " The Additional Judge Act."

The Legislative Assembly sat on 36 days, for an average each day of nearly 3 hours 47 minutes; the number of daily sittings being less, and the average length of each being shorter, than in the first or second sessions of this Parliament.

Having found much difficulty on various occasions in ascertaining the total amounts voted for the service of any particular year, or for any particular department, I have prepared the two following tables marked A. and B., affording that information, the former showing the amounts voted for the service of each year, and the latter showing the sums voted for each of the more important heads of expenditure.

A.—TABLE showing the AMOUNTS VOTED by the PARLIAMENT of QUEENSLAND for the SERVICE of each Year since the Foundation of the Colony, and the particular Acts by which they were appropriated.

No. of Appropriation Act.	For which Year's Service.	Amount of each separate Sum voted.	Total Amount voted for each Year.	Remarks.
	Last Month of	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
25th Victoria, No. 20. -	1859	2,213 12 11	2,213 12 11	Month of December only.
24th Victoria, No. 8. -	1860	137,134 0 0		
24th Victoria, No. 17. -	1860	16,835 0 0	164,525 17 7	
25th Victoria, No. 20. -	1860	10,556 17 7		
24th Victoria, No. 17. -	1861	203,973 0 0		
25th Victoria, No. 20. -	1861	30,032 1 6	270,483 19 10	
26th Victoria, No. 10. -	1861	36,478 18 4		
25th Victoria, No. 20. -	1862	204,032 5 10	279,151 1 5	
26th Victoria, No. 10. -	1862	75,118 15 7		
26th Victoria, No. 10. -	1863	296,336 0 0	296,336 0 0	

B.—TABLE showing the AMOUNTS voted for the SERVICES of the PRINCIPAL HEADS of EXPENDITURE in each of the Years 1862 and 1863.

Heads of Expenditure.	Year. 1862.	Year. 1863.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£	
Administration of justice, gaol, and sheriff - - - -	11,885 15 11	11,332	Many of the items of expenditure in the year 1863, which seem smaller than the corresponding items of 1862, will probably be largely supplemented by votes of the Parliament during the Session of the present year 1863.
Crown lands, occupation and sale of -	35,147 0 0	40,264	
Customs and bonded stores - -	7,389 0 0	8,890	
Education - - -	11,000 0 0	11,000	
Harbours, lights, pilotage, and Marine Board - - - -	8,625 0 0	7,816	
Immigration - - -	2,865 0 0	5,550	
Police, native ditto - - -	44,368 0 0	44,896	
Post Office and conveyance of mails -	21,323 0 0	24,438	
Public works - - -	27,094 0 0	28,070	
Roads and bridges - -	49,841 0 0	41,670	

In addition to the above sums in Table B, the raising of a sum of money by way of loan not to exceed 123,800*l.* 1*s.* to be expended on immigration and on certain permanent works, was authorized by Act of Parliament (25th Victoria, No. 3). 129,432*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* have been thus raised at a premium varying from four to five per cent., by the sale of debentures bearing six per cent. interest. The departments whose expenditure has been supplemented from this source are th efollowing:—

* None of the Tables attached to the Registrar General's Report, are printed.

	1860 and 1861.	1862.
	£ s. d.	
Public works - - - - - - -	57,853 7 2	
Bridges - - - - - - - - -	356 14 0	
Immigration - - - - - - -	5,000 0 0	
	63,210 1 2	

On referring to Table B above, the large sum voted for police will, doubtless, attract notice, and certainly when compared with the population of last year, calculated to the 1st July, it seems at first sight exorbitant, amounting to 1*l.* 2*s.* 7½*d.* per head; in other words, the people of Queensland pay considerably more per head for police alone than the people of Great Britain and Ireland pay per head towards the support of the British army and navy, as well as of the police of the United Kingdom. It is to be remembered, however, that the extension of the machinery of protection over our vast and sparsely inhabited territory, entails a very large expenditure. In 1862, a sum of no less than 17,828*l.* was voted for the native police alone; although the muster-roll of that force, according to a report from the Commandant for the month of January 1863, shows only the following effectives, viz., 1 commandant, 4 lieutenants, 8 second lieutenants, 7 cadets, 1 sergeant-major, 13 camp sergeants, and 114 black troopers. It thus appears that the number of commissioned officers paid to command little more than 100 effective black troopers amounts to one-half of the full complement allotted by the War Office to an English regiment 1,000 strong. Again, a full garrison battery of the Royal Artillery, consisting of 1 captain commanding, 5 officers, 21 non-commissioned officers, and 98 gunners, in all 125, costs only 7,544*l.* per annum, including pay, allowances, provisions, forage, &c. It follows, that the native police corps of Queensland, with its effective force of little more than 100 blacks, costs more than twice as much as a battery of the Royal Artillery, composed of about an equal number of the most highly paid, the most highly disciplined, and the most efficient soldiers in the whole British army.

Electoral.

The number of electors given in Table No. II. of the Register is the number as they stood at the revision of the Rolls in March 1862. The results of the revisions in the present year have not yet reached me.

Municipalities.

The following is a return of the Municipalities in Queensland on the 31st December 1862, showing the date of their establishment, and comparing their receipts and expenditure for the years 1861 and 1862.

C.

Name of Municipality.	When established.	1861.		1862.	
		Receipts.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane - -	13 October 1859	4,477 19 2	14,788 0 3	9,542 0 5	12,633 12 11
Ipswich - -	February 1860	4,890 2 5	6,095 8 11	3,291 18 4	5,953 19 7
Toowoomba -	1 December 1860	1,205 16 6	1,197 16 5	5,147 2 3	4,320 2 2
Rockhampton -	25 February 1861	181 12 0	869 10 0	3,539 6 6	8,874 3 7
Maryborough -	26 April 1861 -	No returns.	No returns.	1,343 13 3	1,258 13 8
Warwick - -	25 May 1861 -	455 5 0	100 0 0	1,719 8 5	2,394 5 10
Drayton - -	23 September 1862	—	—	166 2 9	115 5 5
	Total -	11,210 15 1	23,050 15 7	24,749 11 11	35,550 3 2

It will be observed from the foregoing table that the number of municipalities is larger than it was in 1861, and that both their receipts and expenditures have greatly increased. The difference between the receipts and expenditure of 1862 is not so great as it was in 1861; it is not quite clear, however, how large a portion of the sums entered under the head of receipts in the year 1862 has been raised by loans. Money raised in this manner can hardly be considered in the light of revenue, although it is so entered in some of the municipal returns.

Climate.

The Meteorological Tables, numbered from LXXIX. to LXXXVII. inclusive, have been prepared by the Meteorological Observer with his usual care. They show the climate of the past year to have been one of extremes; the thermometer in the shade both rose higher and fell lower than 1861; the temperature in the one year ranging from 99·7° to 37·0°, in the other, from 100·2° to 31·0°. The quantity of rain that fell in 1861 was 69·49 inches; in 1862 it was only 28·27. The latter has, therefore, been a year of drought, and has been followed by the heaviest and most disastrous floods

QUEENSLAND.

known since the year 1841; the fall of rain, however, which occasioned them, belongs to the Meteorological Tables of 1863. The very small rain-fall which occurred in 1862 was accompanied by a more than usually large amount of evaporation, namely, 72·265 inches; the evaporation in 1861 was 61·793 inches. The greatest daily range in the temperature of the air occurred on the 1st November, the highest and lowest readings of the thermometer on that day differing by 39·9°. In 1861 the greatest daily daily range was 37·6°. It may perhaps be worth observing, that the peculiar state of the atmosphere during the past year has been accompanied by an unusually large mortality, particularly among children.

Population.

The white popnlation of the Colony on the 31st December 1862 is estimated to have numbered 45,077 souls, no account being taken in this estimate of the arrivals and departures by land. Persons who reside in the border districts, and are, therefore, best able to express an opinion, state positively that our population annually receives overland a considerable accession to its number. As the means of testing the accuracy of this assertion are wanting, the estimate of the population has necessarily been made without reference to it. Nor is it possible to make even the most vague estimate of the present number of the aboriginal population. The estimated number of the white population on the 31st December 1861 was 34,367; the increase has therefore been in the high ratio of 31·16 per cent., and is to be traced to the following sources:—

Direct European Immigration	8,080
From neighbouring Colonies	1,725
From natural increase	905
Total increase	10,710

The first two items will be more fully alluded to under the head of Immigration. Under the head of Natural Increase several points offer themselves as worthy of consideration. First, it may be deduced from the following quarterly table of excess of births over deaths, marked D, that the centesimal increase from this cause is not so great as in former years. It is only at the rate of 2·27 per cent. of the estimated average population of 1862; whereas in the year 1861 it was at the rate of 2·92 per cent. It will also be observed, by reference to tables E. and G., that whilst the births of 1862 exceed those of 1861 in the ratio of only 19·61 per cent., the deaths of 1862 exceed those of 1861 in the ratio of 59·40 per cent. The increased mortality of the year has principally taken place in the maritime towns of Rockhampton, Maryborough, and Brisbane, young children (vide Table H.) having been in each case by far the most numerous victims. Many causes suggest themselves as probably assisting the exceptional season in this much to be lamented mortality; but this is not the place, nor is it my province, to enlarge on them. My duty is simply to point out the fact, and I leave it to others more conversant with the subject to say how far it is remediable. In a climate always and with truth considered favorable to human life, it certainly is lamentable to see 27·85 per cent. or more than one fourth of all the children born in the larger towns die before completing their first year, and nearly one half die before reaching five years of age.

D.—POPULATION of QUEENSLAND on the 31st December 1862.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Excess of births over deaths during 1st quarter	58	109	167
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during 1st quarter	1,042	756	1,798
Increase during 1st quarter	1,100	865	1,965
Excess of births over deaths during 2d quarter	117	138	255
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during 2d quarter	1,079	532	1,611
Increase during six months	2,296	1,535	3,831
Excess of births over deaths during 3d quarter	147	153	300
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during 3d quarter	2,181	1,262	3,443
Increase during nine months	4,624	2,950	7,574
Excess of births over deaths during 4th quarter	65	118	183
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during 4th quarter	1,686	1,267	2,953
Total increase during 1862	6,375	4,335	10,710
Estimated population on the 31st December 1861	20,811	13,556	34,367
Estimated total population on the 31st December 1862	27,186	17,891	45,077

Another very remarkable fact is the large number of males who have died compared with females, viz., 516 to 281, or 183·66 males to each hundred females. Making every allowance for the larger number of the male population, there still remains the singular fact that males have died faster than females in the ratio of 130·14 of the former to 100 of the latter.

E.—TABLE showing the NUMBER of BIRTHS in each of the Two Years 1861 and 1862, also the Proportion of Females to Males born in each Year.

District.	1861.			1862.			Numerical Increase in the latter Year.	Increase per Cent. in the latter Year.	Proportion of Females born to each 100 Males born in the Year 1861.	Proportion of Females born to each 100 Males born in the Year 1860.
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.				
Brisbane - - -	248	206	454	300	286	586	132	29·08	83·06	95·33
Ipswich - - -	154	174	328	183	127	310	A Decrease.		112·99	69·39
Warwick - - -	61	60	121	75	82	157	36	29·75	98·36	109·33
Drayton - - -	74	68	142	72	88	160	18	12·68	91·89	122·22
Dalby - - -	53	35	88	39	32	71	A Decrease.		66·04	82·06
Condamine - - -	18	27	45	26	23	49	4	8·81	150·00	88·46
Gayndah - - -	46	40	86	52	28	80	A Decrease.		86·96	53·92
Maryborough - -	30	30	60	52	35	87	27	45·00	100·00	67·31
Taroom - - -	8	10	18	11	21	32	14	77·78	125·00	190·91
Port Curtis - -	12	5	17	12	16	28	11	64·71	41·66	133·33
Rockhampton - -	35	29	64	73	60	133	69	107·81	82·86	82·19
Kennedy - -	—	—	—	8	1	9	9	—	—	12·50
Total -	739	684	1,423	903	799	1,702	279	19·61	92·56	88·48

F.—TABLE showing the NUMBER of MARRIAGES solemnized in each of the two Years 1861 and 1862.

District and Year.	Church of England.	Church of Rome.	Presbyterian.	Wesleyan Methodists.	Independent.	Baptist.	Lutheran.	Congregational.	Registration Office.	Total 1861.	Total 1862.	Remarks.
Brisbane - - {1861	19	18	20	16	2	12	4	16	5	113	—	
Brisbane - - {1862	56	38	42	24	13	10	20	18	20	—	241	
Ipswich - - {1861	10	32	14	11	—	1	—	2	2	72	—	
Ipswich - - {1862	15	29	14	16	—	2	3	13	6	—	98	
Warwick - - {1861	8	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	2	21	—	
Warwick - - {1862	11	4	6	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	23	
Drayton - - {1861	13	—	1	—	—	—	1	8	—	23	—	
Drayton - - {1862	23	9	13	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	47	
Dalby - - {1861	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	14	—	
Dalby - - {1862	8	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	
Condamine - - {1861	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	
Condamine - - {1862	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
Gayndah - - {1861	5	5	—	—	—	2	—	—	8	20	—	
Gayndah - - {1862	1	2	—	—	—	9	—	—	7	—	19	
Maryboroogh - {1861	3	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	7	15	—	
Maryboroogh - {1862	12	6	—	—	—	10	—	—	11	—	39	
Taroom - - {1861	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	
Taroom - - {1862	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	7	
Port Curtis - - {1861	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	7	—	
Port Curtis - - {1862	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	11	
Rockhampton - {1861	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	20	27	—	
Rockhampton - {1862	11	14	22	—	—	—	—	17	9	—	73	
Kennedy - - {1861	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	
Kennedy - - {1862	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
Total - - {1861	80	61	47	27	2	16	5	30	51	320	—	
Total - - {1862	141	105	99	41	13	31	23	48	69	—	570	

QUEENSLAND.

G.—TABLE showing the NUMBER of DEATHS in each of the Two Years 1861 and 1862, also the PROPORTION of FEMALES to MALES who died in each Year.

District.	1861.			1862.			Numerical Increase in the latter Year.	Increase per Cent. in the latter Year.	Proportion of Females who have died to each 100 Males died in the Year 1861.	Proportion of Females who have died to each 100 Males died in the Year 1862.	Remarks.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.					
Brisbane - -	99	45	144	150	126	276	132	91·66	45·45	84·00	
Ipswich - -	72	36	108	75	42	117	9	8·33	50·00	56·00	
Warwick - -	11	17	28	30	10	40	12	42·86	154·54	33·33	
Drayton - -	43	9	52	38	21	59	7	13·46	20·93	55·26	
Dalby - -	17	11	28	27	12	39	11	39·29	64·71	44·44	
Condamine -	13	7	20	19	9	28	8	40·00	53·85	47·37	
Gayndah - -	31	4	35	35	9	44	9	25·71	12·90	25·71	
Maryborough -	10	4	14	23	8	31	17	121·43	40·00	34·78	
Taroom - -	14	2	16	18	6	24	8	50·00	14·29	33·33	
Port Curtis -	7	—	7	3	2	5	A diminution of 2		—	66·66	
Rockhampton -	34	8	42	90	34	124	82	195·24	23·53	37·77	
Kennedy - -	6	—	6	8	2	10	4	66·66	—	25·00	
Total -	357	143	500	516	281	797	297	59·40	40·06	54·44	

H.—TABLE showing the NUMBER of CHILDREN who have died in each of the Years 1861 and 1862.

District.	1861.			1862.			Increase in the Deaths of Children below Two Years of age.	Increase in the Deaths of Children Two and under Five Years of age.	Total Increase in the Deaths of Children below Five Years of age.
	Below Two Years.	Two and under Five Years.	Total below Five Years.	Below Two Years.	Two and under Five Years.	Total below Five Years.			
Brisbane - - -	59	9	68	126	37	163	67	28	95
Ipswich - - -	48	3	51	42	5	47	—	2	—
Warwick - - -	8	1	9	11	4	15	3	3	6
Drayton - - -	16	1	17	15	3	18	—	2	1
Maryborough - -	4	2	6	15	2	17	11	—	11
Rockhampton - - -	5	—	5	40	6	46	35	6	41
Dalby, Condamine, Gayndah, Kennedy, Taroom, and Port Curtis - - -	29	3	32	47	9	56	18	6	24
Total -	169	19	188	296	66	362	127	47	174

I.—TABLE comparing the DEATHS of the Year 1862 with the BIRTHS of the same period of time.

District.	Deaths in 1862.	Births in 1862.	Greater Number of Births than Deaths in 1862.	Centesimal Increase in the Births of the Year 1862 over those of the Year 1861.	Centesimal Increase in the Deaths of the Year 1862 over those of the Year 1861.	Deaths have centesimally increased faster than Births.
Brisbane - - - -	276	586	310	29·08	91·66	62·58
Ipswich - - - -	117	310	193	—5·49*	8·33	13·82
Warwick - - -	40	157	117	29·75	42·86	13·11
Drayton - - - -	59	160	101	12·68	13·46	0·78
Dalby - - - -	39	71	32	—19·32*	39·29	58·61
Condamine - - - -	28	49	21	8·81	40·00	31·19
Gayndah - - - -	44	80	36	—7·50*	25·71	33·21
Maryborough - - -	31	87	56	35·00	121·43	86·43
Taroom - - - -	24	32	8	77·78	50·00	27·78
Port Curtis - - - -	5	28	23	64·71	—	—
Rockhampton - - -	124	133	9	107·81	195·24	87·43
Kennedy - - -	10	9	—1*	—	66·66	—
	797	1,702	905	19·61	59·40	39·79

* A decrease.

Table F shows a large increase in the number of marriages, the respective numbers of the years 1861 and 1862 being 320 and 570, the ratio of the year's increase being 78·12 per cent.

Immigration.

QUEENSLAND.

European immigration has, during the past year, assumed large dimensions. The introduction from the antipodes of upwards of 8,000 immigrants at an expense of 150,000*l.*, by this young Colony, whose whole population, male and female, young and old, was at the commencement of the year under 35,000, is a remarkable fact, and places in a striking light its territorial and financial resources. Leaving entirely on one side the numerous collateral benefits arising from an increase of population, and considering it only so far as it affects the item of revenue derived from import duties, the results are such as those who have not taken the trouble to calculate will hardly deem credible. For instance, if 100,000*l.* of debentures, redeemable in 20 years, and bearing 6 per cent. interest, were sold at current rates, namely, 4½ per cent. premium, and the money expended on the introduction of immigrants at 18*l.* per head, at the end of 20 years, by natural increase, the 5,805 immigrants so introduced would have swelled in number to upwards of 10,000. The increase in the customs revenue occasioned by this growing population, if calculated at current rates per head, would annually pay the interest on the original loan, and if the annual surplus were invested even at 6 per cent. interest, would form a reserve found sufficient to pay off the debentures on the day they became due, and a large sum, more than 120,000*l.*, would still remain to be handed over to the consolidated revenue; an amount far more than necessary to cover all the additional cost of collection by the Customs Department.

The actual number of European immigrants who arrived during the year 1862 was 8,080, of whom 6,172 were introduced under the Land Order system, and 1,908 arrived in vessels chartered by the Government. Of the total arrivals, 4,703 were males, 3,377 were females, these numbers being in the ratio of 71·81 females to every 100 males. As the relative numbers of the sexes of immigrants exhibit a less disparity than existed in the Colony on the 31st December 1861, the per-centage of females on the whole population of 1862 would be thereby increased, were it not that the intercolonial immigration has so strong a counteracting tendency as almost entirely to neutralize the progress towards equalization traceable to the former cause. The estimated number of females to every 100 males of the entire population on the 31st December 1862 is 65·81; on the 31st December of each of the years 1859, 1860, and 1861 the ratios are respectively 66, 66, and 65 per cent. Much information on this important subject may be collected from the tables in the register, Nos. XXVIII. to XXXIII. inclusive.

The system of paying immigrants' passages from Europe by land orders has been most successful in drawing attention to this Colony; and as the balance of the intercolonial immigration continues still in favour of Queensland, although not nearly so largely as in 1861, it cannot be said that too many European immigrants have reached our shores. Experience, however, will probably show, that, like most other schemes, the present one is susceptible of some amendment. It may hereafter be found advisable that the Goverment should possess the power of checking the influx of undue numbers, and particularly of discountenancing their arrival in the middle of summer. The increased mortality during the hot months last year in all the seaport towns—greatly in excess of 2·01 per cent., which is the average mortality of the whole Colony, appears by the records in this office to have fallen chiefly on the recently arrived immigrants, and seems, I think, to show that exposure to the summer heat has an injurious effect on their health, and that the winter or autumn seasons should therefore be selected for their arrival. The following table, showing the deaths in each month of the year in each of the three towns and districts of Brisbane, Maryborough, and Rockhampton, apparently strengthens the above opinion, particularly if this return be compared with the monthly arrival of immigrants. For instance, the deaths in the three specified seaport towns in the two cool months of August and September amounted to 53, the arrivals of immigrants during those months having been 2,507; in the two hot months of November and December the arrivals were 2,745, only 238 more than in August and September, but the deaths numbered 146.

Deaths.

	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
Brisbane	22	11	23	26	16	16	14	11	22	14	45	55
Maryborough	2	1	2	4	—	1	—	5	2	7	5	2
Rockhampton	9	5	25	7	7	10	5	8	5	4	15	24
Total	33	17	50	37	23	27	19	24	29	25	65	81
Arrivals of European Immigrants	807	—	—	529	—	367	320	1,664	843	527	1,954	791

As regards the intercolonial arrivals and departures, it appears that the number of arrivals is greater than that of departures, and that the Colony has gained during the year to the extent of 1,725 souls. This is a far smaller number than in 1861, in which year it amounted to 4,369; the difference is easily explained by the larger European immigration.

QUEENSLAND.

K.

1862.	Arrivals.						Departures.						Excess of Arrivals over Departures.
	Brisbane.	Maryborough.	Port Curtis.	Rockhampton.	Port Denison.	Total Arrivals.	Brisbane.	Maryborough.	Port Curtis.	Rockhampton.	Port Denison.	Total Departures.	
Males above 14 - -	5,508	198	46	972	38	6,762	1,440	29	12	430	17	1,928	4,834
Males under 14 - -	1,107	23	—	123	—	1,253	67	5	—	27	—	99	1,154
Total Males -	6,615	221	46	1,095	38	8,015	1,507	34	12	457	17	2,027	5,988
Females above 14 - -	2,644	161	14	323	8	3,150	293	10	1	55	5	364	2,786
Females under 14 - -	968	22	3	93	1	1,087	45	2	—	9	—	56	1,031
Total Females -	3,612	183	17	416	9	4,237	338	12	1	64	5	420	3,817
Total Persons -	10,227	404	63	1,511	47	12,252	1,845	46	13	521	22	2,447	9,805

Education.

I am happy to have it in my power to report a large increase in the number of schools in the Colony and of the children who have attended them during the past year. First on the list appear the schools under the supervision of the Board of General Education, 13 in number, with a daily average attendance of 1,214 scholars; next come the Church of England schools, 5 in number, with 469 pupils. The private schools are 36 in number, with 1,377 pupils; and lastly the Sunday schools, 30 in number, with 1,865 scholars. There is therefore a total of 4,925 children who attend schools of one description or other. A comparison of these numbers with the meagre returns of 1860 must be very gratifying to the friends of education. On the other hand it is somewhat unsatisfactory to see how large a proportion of the persons taken into custody has been educated, at least to a certain extent; for of these persons one half could both read and write, and more than one half could read.

Crime.

The tables under this head, Nos. XL. to XLIII. inclusive, continue to show a marked exemption from crime of the more serious descriptions. The number of persons tried by jury is certainly larger than in the year 1861, but has not increased quite in the same ratio as the population. In that year the per-centage of the population tried by jury was 1·03; last year the per-centage was 1·02. It will be observed by comparing the tables above referred to that there is a wide difference between the number committed for trial by the Courts of Petty Sessions and the number who are actually put upon their trial; 84 persons appear to have been committed for trial, but only 55 to have been tried, and out of these 55 the number acquitted is 32.

The following TABLE shows the PROGRESSIVE DIMINUTION of CRIME of a serious Nature during the last Four Years.

Year.	Acquitted.	Guilty.	Total tried.	Per-centage of Population tried.	Per-centage of Population guilty.
1859 - -	22	35	57	·23	·14
1860 - -	11	30	41	·14	·10
1861 - -	19	24	43	·13	·07
1862 - -	32	23	55	·12	·05

Of the above convictions in 1862 two were for murder, eleven were for offences against the person, and twelve for offences against property. The following table, showing the number of persons taken into custody and dealt with summarily by the Courts of Petty Sessions, is satisfactory as regards minor offences against both person and property, but as regards drunkenness and vagrancy it is far the reverse.

TABLE comparing the NUMBER of PERSONS taken into CUSTODY and SUMMARILY CONVICTED or DISCHARGED by the several Courts of Petty Sessions in the Two Years 1861 and 1862.

Year.	Taken into Custody.				Convicted.				Committed for Trial.	Discharged.
	Offences against Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkards and Vagrants.	Total taken into Custody.	Offences against Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkards and Vagrants.	Total convicted.		
1861 - -	497	361	1,187	2,045	356	201	1,043	1,600	99	346
1862 - -	487	482	2,180	3,149	326	243	1,837	2,406	84	659
Increase - -	—	121	993	1,104	—	42	794	806	—	313
Decrease - -	10	—	—	—	30	—	—	—	15	—

Public attention cannot be too strongly drawn to the terribly rapid increase of drunkenness and vagrancy. It is true that the population has multiplied at the rate of 31·16 per cent., but even that large increase is small when compared with the increase of the above offences. An increase of 83·66 per cent. in the number taken into custody, and of 76·12 per cent. in the number punished for drunkenness and vagrancy, in one year, is not a pleasant contemplation for those who have the prosperity of the Colony at heart. It is impossible to avoid connecting the extraordinary number of sudden and accidental deaths of persons in the prime of life, 21·51 per cent., or nearly one fourth of the whole deaths of the year, and the far too numerous deaths of children, 45·53 per cent., or nearly one half of the total deaths of the year, with the prevalence of this degrading vice; and if in the majority of cases it cannot be actually shown to be the immediate cause of death, I fear that but little inquiry is needed in most instances to ascertain that it is so indirectly. As regards crime also, although the Colony can still boast of a remarkable immunity from the more serious descriptions, I apprehend that such cannot possibly continue to be the case in the face of a yearly increasing amount of drunkenness and vagrancy. It may also, whilst on this subject, be as well to remark that the number of public houses in the Colony has increased in one year from 139 to 193, and it is remarkable that for this increase of 54 Rockhampton is accountable for 36, the respective numbers in that district having been in 1861, 18, in 1862, 54.

Colonial Banking Establishments.

The following table marked L. is compiled for the purpose of providing easy means of comparing the position of the Queensland branches of the several banks carrying on business in this Colony during each quarter of the years 1860, 1861, and 1862. Although these returns are compiled from the returns of the several branches published in the Government Gazette, and sworn to as correct by the several managers, still, being only the returns of one branch of each bank, they afford no real insight into the true position of the several banks of which they are only offshoots. Notwithstanding this deficiency, they are interesting documents, and show that a large increase has taken place in every item, both of liabilities and assets. For instance, taking the last quarter of each of the years 1861 and 1862, it appears that—

Notes in circulation have increased at the rate of			-	38·03 per cent.
Bills in circulation	ditto	ditto	-	164·57 „
Deposits	ditto	ditto	-	5·84 „
Total liabilities	ditto	ditto	-	13·33 „
Coin and bullion	ditto	ditto	-	23·92 „
Value of landed property estimated to have increased at the rate of - - - - -				41·75 „
Notes and bills discounted have increased at the rate of - - - - - -				21·56 „
Total assets	ditto	ditto	-	21·61 „

The business of the Moreton Bay Savings Bank has during the past year increased so much that I have considered it desirable to give a full abstract of its balance sheet on the 31st December 1862, which will be found in the Register, Table No. XLVIII. The number of depositors has increased during the year from 242 to 489, and the amount deposited from 12,192*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* to 20,562*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*

Industrial.

There is but little to be said on this subject. A slight increase has taken place in the number of sawmills, but no manufactures, properly so called, have been, or are at all likely to be commenced. Coal mining is gradually increasing, and will no doubt before long become a very important occupation. The quantity raised last year was 24,067 tons, valued at 19,253*l.* 12*s.*, which is nearly double the quantity and value raised in 1861. Gold digging has not made much progress; the difficulties in the way of the diggers, arising from want of water and the scarceness and consequent high price of provisions, have compelled most of them to turn their attention for the present to other employments. An exceedingly rich lode of copper ore has been found in the Kennedy district, and active steps are being taken to work it.

Agriculture.

The following table marked M. shows the present state of agriculture, and compares it with the returns of the year 1861. Although the total quantity of land under cultivation is very small, it is still most satisfactory to observe an increase in the year in the ratio of 35·85 per cent. Wheat, grown principally in the district of Warwick, is nearly double the quantity grown in 1861, and the cultivation of maize has also much increased. The apparent decrease in the quantity of land under cotton is incorrect, and arises from an erroneous return forwarded to this office for the Register of 1861. There is in reality an increase, although not a large one, in the quantity of land, and a considerable increase in the quantity of cotton produced, this latter being by far the more reliable evidence. In 1861 there were three companies for the growth of cotton in Queensland, viz., the Cabulture, the Ipswich, and the Maryborough companies. During 1862 two additional cotton companies began operations, viz., the Manchester Company and the Victoria Company, the plantation of the former being situated on the Nyrang Creek, and that of the latter on the Hotham Creek, two small navigable rivers flowing into Moreton Bay. In addition to the five cotton companies now at work in Queensland, many individuals are forming cotton plantations, some of them on a considerable scale.

The first appearance of 20 acres of sugar cane is also worthy of notice, as the germ of an industry which will very probably become hereafter of great importance to the Colony.

L.—TABLE comparing the aggregate LIABILITIES and ASSETS of the COLONIAL BANKING ESTABLISHMENTS at the TERMINATION of each QUARTER of the Years 1860, 1861, and 1862.

		LIABILITIES.					ASSETS.						
Quarters of the Year.	Year.	Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.	Total Liabilities.	Coin.	Bullion.	Landed Property.	Notes and Bills of other Banks.	Balances due from other Banks and Branches.	Notes and Bills discounted and all other Debts due to the Banks.	Total Assets.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
First Quarer	1860	32,734 16 6	2,419 7 7	57,161 1 5	166,574 10 6	258,889 16 0	52,677 3 1	Nil.	7,172 5 2	4,804 18 8	1,166 11 5	390,250 8 9	456,071 7 1
	1861	46,975 11 8	2,889 5 2	52 18 1	310,842 6 3	360,760 1 2	66,225 3 4	51 8 6	14,235 17 7	1,290 15 10	5,374 10 8	558,895 5 5	596,073 1 4
	1862	78,110 10 1	5,710 7 5	726 13 2	310,843 1 1	395,390 11 9	86,015 14 5	113 15 3	19,491 5 1	1,860 1 2	5,965 10 8	630,686 12 11	744,132 19 6
Second Quarter	1860	35,744 19 11	2,596 7 10	47 17 1	182,435 4 5	220,824 9 3	58,385 2 11	39 11 5	7,946 19 0	1,694 19 11	2,844 16 1	420,138 16 4	491,050 5 8
	1861	52,143 9 2	3,451 3 7	778 10 0	267,351 16 8	323,724 19 5	71,292 1 7	43 12 6	16,363 6 10	1,672 9 8	6,901 19 2	504,818 1 4	611,091 11 1
	1862	80,773 11 5	7,284 14 11	595 11 5	314,769 17 11	403,423 15 8	90,691 5 3	Nil.	21,415 9 10	2,477 7 8	4,149 1 11	652,029 8 4	770,762 13 0
Third Quarter	1860	39,963 3 5	7,920 3 3	18 7 8	236,337 5 0	284,238 19 4	61,289 13 10	86 8 1	11,996 18 3	1,289 11 11	4,730 17 11	472,537 11 4	551,931 1 4
	1861	56,773 6 3	3,617 13 0	5,024 9 1	266,700 10 9	332,115 19 1	78,869 2 2	46 1 4	16,475 6 1	1,548 4 1	4,325 4 6	590,308 7 10	691,572 6 0
	1862	79,599 11 5	18,468 15 7	941 17 11	343,542 14 3	443,552 19 2	96,166 2 4	Nil.	21,709 0 11	2,337 18 6	5,813 6 1	683,862 15 9	809,889 3 7
Fourth Quarter	1860	42,765 11 8	2,473 18 11	17 2 10	286,917 1 4	332,173 14 9	63,843 6 7	43 14 11	13,749 18 8	1,293 14 9	4,870 4 4	490,860 2 5	574,661 1 8
	1861	63,104 12 4	4,499 17 5	323 5 3	322,310 5 5	390,238 0 5	84,916 8 6	40 8 6	18,016 0 7	1,527 7 3	8,101 16 1	618,315 18 1	730,917 19 0
	1862	87,103 4 10	11,903 6 0	2,083 17 4	341,155 8 8	442,245 16 10	105,268 11 6	Nil.	25,538 9 8	2,286 14 1	4,107 1 10	751,678 5 10	888,879 2 11

M.—Comparative view of the State of Agriculture in each District of Queensland for the Years 1861 and 1862.

Year	Brisbane.		Ipswich.		Warwick.		Drayton and Toowoomba.		Gayndah.		Dalby.		Callandoon.		Maryborough.		Rockhampton.		Nanango.		Maranoa.		Kennedy.		Leichhardt.		Condamine.		Gladstone.		Total.	
	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.
	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a, r. p.	a. r.	a. r.	a. r.	a. r.	a. r.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r.	a. r.	a. r. p.	a. r.	a.	a,	a. r.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r.	a. r.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.
Wheat	4 2 0	—	1 0 0	16 0 0	356 0	709 3 0	19 2 0	8 1 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0 1 0	0 1 0	—	—	11 1 0	5 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	392 2 0	739 1 0
Maize	610 0 0	854 1 0	393 3 0	419 3 0	568 0	892 1 0	229 1 0	388 2 9	17 3 20	10 2 0	0 2	—	—	1 0	62 2	171 2 0	9 0 0	16 0 0	16 2	9 2	1 1 0	—	—	—	—	—	0 1 0	—	—	4 0 0	1,913 3 20	2,767 1 9
Barley, for Seed	7 0 0	—	1 0 0	—	2 1	7 1 0	—	17 1 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7 0 0	2 2 20	3 0 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12 3 20	34 2 20
Oats, for Seed	37 0 0	—	—	—	28 0	23 0 0	—	19 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	0 2	2 0	0 2 0	2 2 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	69 2 20	43 0 0
Millet, for Seed	8 2 0	—	3 3 0	—	1 1	0 3 0	—	0 2 0	0 3 0	—	—	1 0	—	—	—	1 3 0	5 0 0	2 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 2 0	—	—	—	—	19 2 0	8 2 0
Potatoes	270 0 0	212 0 1	35 0 20	27 2 0	74 0	62 0 1	75 3 13	121 3 26½	6 0 20	2 0 0	—	—	—	0 2	28 0	35 2 20	13 2 20	4 1 21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 0 0	512 2 33	466 3 29½
Bananas	113 0 0	107 2 22	2 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	2 3 0	—	—	—	—	—	18 1	6 0 27	6 3 0	12 0 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8 0 0	—	—	—	—	162 3 0	133 3 11
Arrowroot	7 3 0	17 2 30	3 2 5	2 0 4	—	—	—	0 1 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 2	1 0 1	—	0 0 0½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13 3 5	20 3 35½
Cotton[1]	46 0 0	140 1 0	319 3 0	241 2 0	1 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27 2	10 2 0	0 0 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0 2 0	395 1 20[1]	392 3 0
Dry Fodder	151 0 0	307 0 0	82 0 0	284 2 0	16 2	199 2 0	26 2 0	29 0 0	—	—	4 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	16 0 0	—	10 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	280 0 0	846 0 0
Green Fodder	67 0 0	48 0 0	37 1 0	29 0 0	5 2	20 3 0	—	3 0 0	—	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	4 0 0	0 1 0	20 1 0	—	5 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	110 0 0	131 0 0
Gardens	236 1 20	195 3 31	77 3 0	30 3 28	62 2	25 2 0	17 1 0	19 1 27	24 0 0	14 2 21	12 1	7 1	4 0	1 0	19 0	15 1 20	30 2 0	61 0 0	9 3	2 0	3 2 20	0 3	—	—	6 3	5 2 0	4 2 20	0 2	8 3	16 1 38½	517 0 20	396 1 5½
Vineyards	24 2 0	20 0 16	5 2 0	19 1 0	4 0	1 1 24	6 2 0	12 1 39½	—	2 0 0	—	—	—	1 0	—	0 2 0	—	3 0 1	—	1 2	—	—	—	—	—	0 0 10	—	—	—	—	40 2 0	61 1 10½
All other Crops	—	25 3 0[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25 3 0
Total	1,582 2 20	1,928 0 20	962 1 25	1,070 1 32	1,119 0	1,942 0 25	374 3 13	619 2 22	51 2 0	30 0 21	16 3	8 1	4 0	4 0	159 3	253 3 28	70 3 0	138 0 4½	26 1	28 0	16 0 20	5 3	—	—	6 3	14 0 10	4 3 20	0 2	8 3	21 3 38½	4,440 2 18	6,067 2 0½

[1] The Returns of Cotton for 1861 were incorrectly collected.

[2] In this item are included twenty acres of sugar cane.

QUEENSLAND.

Lands.

The tables in the Register relating to the alienation of Crown Lands during the past year, and numbered from LXIII. to LXVII.* inclusive, are very elaborate and complete. Several causes have operated to make the quantity of land purchased from the Crown unusually large. Of these the principal one has undoubtedly been the land order system, and the facilities which it has afforded of obtaining land at less than the minimum price, by purchasing the 18*l.* land order at a discount, and tendering it in payment to the government at its full value.

* Not printed.

The total quantity of land sold during the past year was 67,873 acres 1 rood 9 perches, which realized 106,019*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* The quantity sold in the year 1861 was 56,849 acres 1 rood 14¼ perches. The increase in the quantity sold has therefore been at the rate of 19·39 per cent. The total quantity of land alienated in fee by the Crown from the foundation of the Colony up to the 31st December 1862 is 149,254 acres 2 roods 31¼ perches.

Trade and Commerce.

The returns furnished by the Collector of Customs show a very encouraging state of trade; and which, if commerce be any index to the prosperity and resources of a country, must tend to raise Queensland to a far higher place in the list of British Colonies than her youth and scanty population would otherwise justify. It cannot be too clearly understood that the returns referred to, and numbered in the tables LXXV. and LXXVI., are for the third year of the Colony's separate existence. The trade of the Colony for each of the last three years has been as follows:—

Year.	Imports. Value in £s Sterling.	Exports. Value in £s Sterling.	Total Exports and Imports. Value in £s Sterling.	Increase per Cent. on former Year's Imports in £s Sterling.	Increase per Cent. on former Year's Exports in £s Sterling.	Export of Wool in each Year in Lbs.	Increase per Cent. on former Year's Export of Wool in Lbs.
1860	742,023	523,476	1,265,499	—	—	5,007,167	—
1861	967,950	709,598	1,677,548	30·44	35·55	6,994,033	39·68
1862	1,320,225*	748,519*	2,068,744	36·39	5·48	8,063,612	15·29

* These figures differ slightly from those in the return furnished by the Collector of Customs, but I believe their correctness may be relied on.

N.—TOTAL VALUE in Sterling of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS of the Colony of QUEENSLAND, from and to each Country, in each of the Years 1860, 1861, and 1862.

Countries.	Year.	Imports therefrom. £ s. d.	Exports thereto. £ s. d.	Total Trade. £ s. d.
Great Britain	1860	56,730 0 0	—	56,730 0 0
	1861	90,905 0 0	119,515 0 0	210,420 0 0
	1862	228,591 0 0	215,059 0 0	443,650 0 0
Australian Colonies	1860	523,165 0 0	161,546 0 0	684,711 0 0
	1861	874,797 13 11	589,633 15 0	1,464,431 8 11
	1862	1,086,338 0 0	527,545 0 0	1,613,883 0 0
New Zealand	1860	—	—	—
	1861	—	—	—
	1862	1,915 0 0	—	1,915 0 0
Germany	1860	—	—	—
	1861	1,180 0 0	—	1,180 0 0
	1862	4,268 0 0	—	4,268 0 0
India	1860	—	311 0 0	311 0 0
	1861	—	—	—
	1882	—	1,876 0 0	1,876 0 0
China	1860	—	—	—
	1861	—	450 0 0	450 0 0
	1862	3 0 0	—	3 0 0
South America	1860	—	—	—
	1861	—	—	—
	1862	—	1,968 0 0	1,968 0 0
New Caledonia	1860	—	311 0 0	311 0 0
	1861	—	—	—
	1862	2,394 0 0	—	2,394 0 0
South Sea Islands	1860	—	—	—
	1861	1,068 0 0	—	1,068 0 0
	1862	—	—	—
Total trade in the years	1860	742,023 0 0	523,476 0 0	1,265,499 0 0
	1861	967,950 13 11	709,598 15 0	1,677,549 8 11
	1862	1,323,509 0 0	747,448 0 0	2,070,957 0 0

It appears from the former of the above tables that the trade of the Colony for the year 1862 was, imports, 1,320,225*l.*; exports, 748,519*l.*; and imports and exports together, 2,068,744*l.* Estimating the mean population of the year at 39,722 souls, the imports were at the extraordinary rate of 33*l.* 6*s.* 4¾*d.* per head, and the exports at the rate of 18*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* per head. It will also be observed that the value of the imports of 1862 exceeds that of the imports of 1861 by 352,275*l.*, or at the rate of 36·73 per cent., and that the value of the exports of 1862 exceeds the value of those of 1861 by 38,921*l.*, or at the rate of 5·19 per cent. This comparatively small increase in the exports is no doubt mainly attributable to the difficulties that have been experienced during the past year by those engaged in pastoral pursuits, owing to the recent floods, in conveying their raw produce to the various shipping ports, and to a very material alteration in the estimated value affixed to the wool exported. In 1861 it was estimated at 21*d.* per lb., in 1862 at only 18½*d.* per lb. The actual quantity of wool shipped in 1862 is 15·29 per cent. greater than the quantity shipped in 1861. It must, however, be observed that the large and rapid increase in the quantity of wool shipped is chiefly ascribable to importations of sheep, and not to natural increase, and that we cannot therefore expect this increase to continue long at its present rate. Every well-wisher to the Colony must earnestly hope to see other raw productions gradually assume a more important place in our exports; and I therefore draw particular attention to the first appearance of cotton as an export. The quantity is but small, only 14,344 lbs, and valued only at 1,423*l.*, and is therefore only worthy of notice as being the starting point of an exportation which it is highly probable will in a few years become of imperial importance. Copper ore also begins to appear among the exports, 268 tons, valued at 10,332*l.*, being the quantity shipped last year. If it were possible in the Customs' Returns to distinguish between washed and unwashed wool, the distinction would, I think, afford valuable information.

Shipping.

Tables LXVIII. to LXXIII. inclusive.

The trade of the Colony, as given in the above tables, is developing itself with extraordinary rapidity; not only has it greatly increased in its previously existing channels, but traffic has been commenced in a number of new directions. The Register of 1861 pointed out an increase on the year 1860 of vessels entered inwards in the ratio of 21·25 per cent. The increase of the year 1862 on the number of the year 1861 is still greater, being in the ratio of 29·48 per cent. It also appears that there is a large increase in the size of the vessels. The tonnage of 1861 exceeded that of 1860 in the ratio of 26·16 per cent., and the tonnage of 1862 exceeds that of 1861 in the ratio of 34·13 per cent.; in other words, the average tonnage of vessels in 1861 was 228·59 tons, whilst the average of 1862 was 234·28 tons. The following tables are prepared to facilitate a comparison between the trade of 1861 and that of 1862.

COMPARATIVE TABLE of VESSELS entered Inwards in the Two Years 1861 and 1862.

Port of Entry.	1861.			1862.			Increase or Decrease. Distinguished by the Sign + or —.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
Brisbane - -	141	35,220	2,737	177	50,938	3,647	+35	+15,718	+910
Hervey's Bay -	28	5,789	651	24	5,203	600	−4	−586	−51
Port Curtis -	30	8,053	596	27	5,497	468	−3	−2,556	−128
Rockhampton -	49	7,928	731	90	14,626	1,365	+41	+6,698	+634
Port Denison -	3	387	35	12	1,048	74	+9	+661	+39
	251	57,377	4,750	330	77,312	6,154	+79	+19,935	+1,404

The most noteworthy point in the Shipping Tables is the increase in the number of vessels which have arrived direct from Great Britain. In 1861 the number was only eight; in 1862 it has increased to twenty-three. Nor has this been accompanied by a diminution of shipping from New South Wales. In 1861 the vessels from that Colony numbered two hundred and twenty-three, of 47,782 tons. In 1862 this number increased to two hundred and sixty-six, of 48,566 tons burden. The following table provides means of making further comparisons.

O.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of NUMBER, TONNAGE, and CREWS of VESSELS entered Inwards in the Colony of QUEENSLAND, during the Years 1860, 1861, and 1862.

Countries whence arrived.	Year.	British.									Foreign.									Total.								
		With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.			With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.			With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
		Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
Great Britain	1860	3	1,085	48	—	—	—	3	1,085	48	1	315	11	—	—	—	1	315	11	4	1,400	59	—	—	—	4	1,400	59
	1861	7	6,105	213	—	—	—	7	6,105	213	1	281	11	—	—	—	1	281	11	8	6,386	224	—	—	—	8	6,386	224
	1862	22	19,723	762	1	32	8	23	19,755	770	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	19,723	762	1	32	8	23	19,755	770
New South Wales	1860	196	42,950	3,603	2	210	18	198	43,160	3,621	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	196	42,950	3,603	2	210	18	198	43,160	3,621
	1861	221	47,588	4,283	1	147	19	222	47,735	4,302	—	—	—	1	47	4	1	47	4	221	47,588	4,283	2	194	23	223	47,782	4,306
	1862	262	48,247	4,946	4	319	28	266	48,566	4,974	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	262	48,247	4,946	4	319	28	266	48,566	4,974
Victoria	1860	3	568	29	—	—	—	3	568	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	568	29	—	—	—	3	568	29
	1861	9	1,396	130	—	—	—	9	1,396	130	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	1,396	130	—	—	—	9	1,396	130
	1862	19	2,611	99	—	—	—	19	2,611	99	1	1,436	33	—	—	—	1	1,436	33	20	5,047	132	—	—	—	20	5,047	132
South Australia	1860	1	130	7	—	—	—	1	130	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	130	7	—	—	—	1	130	7
	1861	4	867	37	—	—	—	4	867	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	867	37	—	—	—	4	867	37
	1862	6	1,049	52	—	—	—	6	1,049	52	1	316	9	—	—	—	1	316	9	7	1,365	61	—	—	—	7	1,365	61
Tasmania	1860	3	431	24	—	—	—	3	431	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	431	24	—	—	—	3	431	24
	1861	4	533	28	—	—	—	4	533	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	533	28	—	—	—	4	533	28
	1862	7	1,020	50	—	—	—	7	1,020	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1,020	50	—	—	—	7	1,020	50
New Zealand	1860	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1862	2	416	22	—	—	—	2	416	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	416	22	—	—	—	2	416	22
Other Ports not European	1860	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	47	5	1	47	5	—	—	—	1	47	5	1	47	5
	1861	1	101	7	1	72	6	2	173	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	101	7	1	72	6	2	173	13
	1862	3	888	104	—	—	—	3	888	104	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	888	104	—	—	—	3	888	104
Other European Ports	1860	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	240	12	—	—	—	1	240	12	1	240	12	—	—	—	1	240	12
	1862	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1,255	43	—	—	—	2	1,255	43	2	1,255	43	—	—	—	2	1,255	43
Totals	1860	206	45,164	3,711	2	210	18	208	45,874	3,729	1	315	11	1	47	5	2	362	16	207	45,479	3,722	3	257	23	210	45,736	3,745
	1861	246	56,590	4,698	2	219	25	248	56,809	4,723	2	521	23	1	47	4	3	568	27	248	57,111	4,721	3	266	29	251	57,377	4,750
	1862	321	73,954	6,033	5	351	36	326	74,305	6,069	4	3,007	85	—	—	—	4	3,007	85	325	76,961	6,118	5	351	36	330	77,312	6,154

Pastoral.

Much difficulty has been experienced in collecting the live stock returns from the more distant commissioners' districts; the great distances in the interior to which settlers have during the past year pushed their stations, and as a consequence the difficulty of communicating with them, will account for the imperfect state of many of the commissioners' returns. In examining the following table, marked P, this must be borne in mind. The actual result of this table is to show that, as compared with the year 1861, horses have increased at the rate of 22·92 per cent., cattle at the rate of 8·92 per cent., and sheep at the rate of 6·17 per cent.

The returns of liens on wool and of mortgages on live stock, which will be found in the Register, numbered respectively LI. and LII., are documents of much importance to the pastoral interests. They show that during the year 1862 91 liens on the ensuing clip, that is, the clip of 1862–3, of 909,933 sheep, to secure the repayment of 165,487*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, were registered. The mortgages on live stock effected last year numbered 152 against 25 discharged. The balance of the year's transactions is as follows:—Additional mortgages 123; number of sheep mortgaged 918,917; of horned cattle 143,260; of horses 2,341; and the amount secured 577,020*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* If this sum be added to the mortgages in existence on the 31st December 1861, it makes a total of 1,759,539*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*

The live stock pledged to secure this large sum are, sheep 2,700,434, cattle 311,962, horses 28,338. It must, however, be remembered, that in almost all cases the stations on which the above mortgaged stock are depasturing form part of the security; and that, leaving that security out of the question, the extremely moderate value of 8*s.* per sheep, 30*s.* per head of cattle, and 120*s.* per head of horses will about equal the money lent.

P.—TABLE showing the NUMBER of LIVE STOCK in the Colony of QUEENSLAND, in each of the Years 1860 to 1862 inclusive.

Districts.	1860.				1861.				1862.			
	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Brisbane	2,609	55,804	42,895	2,049	3,012	54,836	14,235	1,842	2,562	26,654	30,976	1,297
Ipswich	2,975	54,988	273,882	2,217	4,737	68,707	250,534	2,557	5,068	79,638	267,460	2,230
Warwick	2,903	27,212	468,943	1,046	3,296	30,432	525,076	1,095	3,944	39,121	523,949	917
Drayton and Toowoomba	1,309	11,554	229,061	428	1,855	32,625	343,994	486	2,616	22,440	460,452	522
Gayndah*	1,780	35,196	506,066	264	2,275	46,361	542,462	265	1,468	38,242	418,525	285
Dalby	1,599	18,698	337,545	115	1,298	15,965	405,481	109	1,494	18,350	355,018	122
Callandoon	1,698	24,095	142,948	59	2,726	55,740	134,622	88	5,278	31,493	145,516	111
Maryborough	1,818	65,053	112,953	778	1,862	69,995	92,149	715	2,404	82,954	96,594	975
Rockhampton	1,365	13,132	303,849	89	724	26,321	152,959	62	1,170	44,302	154,203	184
Nanango	1,620	23,774	156,870	35	1,635	23,489	184,151	36	1,449	13,714	179,287	14
East Maranoa	No Returns.				951	48,325	336,424	—	1,206	51,558	427,919	—
West Maranao†									2,024	83,911	36,963	43
Kennedy‡	134	121	2	7	550	17,200	61,800	—	550	17,200	61,800	—
Leichardt	859	4,337	282,548	13	2,461	48,928	847,797	118	2,704	27,311	981,384	113
Condamine	2,173	82,943	493,281	29	307	3,851	84,104	4	455	9,959	134,029	1
Gladstone	662	15,983	98,507	18	1,294	17,421	117,593	88	1,233	23,377	71,826	205
Mitchell§	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	23,504	432,890	3,166,802	7,147	28,983	560,196	4,093,381	7,465	35,625	610,204	4,345,901	7,019

* The Gayndah Returns are very incomplete, returns from more than 20 stations being wanting.

† In the West Maranoa, returns from 13 stations are wanting.

‡ The returns from only eight stations in the Kennedy District have been received; the numbers for the year 1861 are therefore repeated.

§ No returns have been received from the Mitchell District.

Financial.

The Auditor General's Financial Statement, vide Table No. XCIII., requires, I think, some little explanation, for else it might lead readers at a distance, and unacquainted with the circumstances, to under-estimate both the revenue and expenditure of Queensland for the past year.

A large quantity of Crown land was sold during the year 1862, and realized the sum of 110,526*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*; of this a large portion was paid for by land orders, and not by cash. The sum thus paid by land orders, amounting to 51,144*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, or nearly one half of the total sum realized by the sale of land, is not included either in the year's receipts or expenditure, the reason being, I believe, that it was paid for by land orders, and not by cash. In this statistical document, however, professing to show the entire transactions of the past year, and to give a correct account of the resources of the Colony, I feel bound to notice both the receipt and expenditure of this large sum of money; for, as the Government of Queensland issued these land orders by authority of the Act of the Queensland Parliament, 24 Victoria, No. 15, and as they are declared by that Act to be as good as cash, for the purpose of paying for land purchased from the Crown, I am unable to see why the money which they represent should not appear as part of the year's revenue, and the balance be adjusted by charging the Immigration Department with a like sum, as money expended on the introduction of immigrants; without this arrangement no equivalent is shown for the alienation of many thousand acres of the territory of the Crown. It should also, I think, be borne in mind, that although the Treasury considers that it has only received the representative of money, but not the money itself, the Colony has actually received the benefit arising from that money's expenditure, in

QUEENSLAND.

a large and valuable addition to its population. Viewing the subject in this light, I think I am fully justified in the following table, comparing the revenue and expenditure of the two years, 1861 and 1862, in treating the sum above alluded to on the one hand as revenue, and on the other as money expended on the introduction of immigrants. This alteration being made, the revenue of last year was 346,431*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*, and its expenditure 368,171*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* The revenue of 1862 is at the rate of 8*l.* 14*s.*. 5¼*d.* per head of the average population of the year.

Q.—TABLE comparing the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the Two Years 1861 and 1862.

REVENUE.						EXPENDITURE.					
Items.	1861.			1862.		Items.	1861.			1862.	
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.* *d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.* *d.*
Import Duties	71,218	5	1	96,107	11 8	Schedule A.	4,000	0	0	4,000	0 0
Bonded warehouse rents and duties	460	13	10	657	12 1	Ditto B.	4,000	0	0	6,223	11 0
Land sales—Cash	68,700	13	3	59,381	15 0	Ditto C.	825	0	0	425	0 0
„ Land orders	—			51,144	17 4	Executive and Legislative	7,604	3	3	8,046	15 9
Rents and assessments on land and stock	57,314	9	9	82,059	6 7	Colonial Secretary's office	1,456	9	7	2,035	0 0
Deposits	6,451	3	9	194	6 0	Registrar-General's ditto	974	10	8	2,636	0 5
Timber licences	786	10	0	1,069	4 6	Education	10,000	0	0	6,740	3 4
Postage	6,348	1	2	8,878	16 4	Immigration	12,544	6	8	57,503	9 4
Publicans and other licences	4,956	7	8	7,295	16 8	Police	33,839	13	2	40,526	13 1
Fees of office	3,106	9	7	5,662	5 3	Lunatic Asylum	845	13	10	1,160	0 0
Fines and forfeitures	489	9	4	2,125	2 2	Government printing	8,084	18	3	10,410	13 10
Rents, tolls, ferries, wharves	169	1	8	288	15 0	Steam dredge	707	10	0	292	10 0
Pilotage, harbour dues, and fees	642	11	8	1,544	12 3	Miscellaneous under Chief Secretary	24,604	14	10	32,981	12 11
Immigration remittances	13,617	14	6	13,114	0 0	Law Officers of the Crown	2,115	11	4	1,260	6 5
Miscellaneous receipts	2.779	15	5	12,953	8 4	Supreme Court	2,612	13	1	2,896	5 9
Special receipts	403	17	3	482	19 4	Sheriff	1,660	0	0	2,176	5 8
Electric telegraph receipts	793	5	2	3,665	2 11	Brisbane Gaol	3,258	3	5	3,756	9 3
						Coroners	397	8	11	503	19 6
						Colonial Treasurer's office	1,781	16	8	2,524	6 2
						Customs	6,646	2	11	8,001	8 0
						Post Office	16,072	19	2	17,917	18 1
						Harbours	3,946	18	2	7,186	19 5
						Miscellaneous under Treasurer	5,812	5	10	23,442	17 0
						Interest on Government Debentures	963	5	8	6,153	10 9
						Secretary of Lands and Works office	—			910	3 4
						Survey of Lands	19,673	10	3	18,958	18 0
						Occupation and sale of lands	5,311	13	7	11,800	2 2
						Domain, gardens, and park	1,727	19	6	1,670	5 9
						Engineer of Roads' offices	2,205	6	7	3,339	14 0
						Colonial Architect's office	1,788	11	7	1,970	0 0
						Roads	30,083	18	5	32,883	12 3
						Bridges	6,569	10	6	11,122	16 9
						Payments in excess of various public works	—			1,898	9 9
						Other public works	15,089	1	11	15,289	7 5
						Miscellaneous in Lands and Works Department.	—			14,860	14 8
						Auditor-General's office	999	14	10	1,000	0 0
						Electric Telegraph	—			3,665	7 10
						Miscellaneous	16,976	12	0	—	
Total	238,238	9	1	346,431	5 5	Total	255,180	4	7	368,171	17 7

The following table, with which I shall conclude, is a general summary of the principal results exhibited by the various tables compiled in this Register, and affords most unmistakeable evidence of the rapid progress the Colony of Queensland has made during the past year, and of the large amount of prosperity it has hitherto enjoyed.

R.—GENERAL SUMMARY for 1862.

	Per Cent.	
Population has increased at the rate of	31·16	On total population of 31st December 1861.
Births in 1862 exceed those in 1861 by	19·61	On total number in 1861.
Marriages in 1862 exceed those in 1861 by	78·13	On total number in 1861.
Deaths in 1862 exceed those in 1861 by	59·40	On total number in 1861.
Number of enrolled electors has increased at the rate of	30·21	On total number in 1861.
Land under cultivation has increased at the rate of	36·52	On total quantity on 31st December 1861.
Land alienated by the Crown in 1862 exceeds that alienatod in 1861 by	85·56	On total quantity on 31st December 1861.
Amount realized by the sale of Crown Lands in 1862 exceeds that in 1861 by	12·71	On total quantity on 31st December 1861.
Horses have increased at the rate of	22·92	
Cattle have increased at the rate of	8·93	
Sheep have increased at the rate of	6·17	
Bank notes in circulation on 31st December 1862 have increased at the rate of	38·03	
Deposits in Banks have increased at the rate of	5·85	
Bills under discount in the Banks have increased at the rate of	164·53	
Total Consolidated Revenue of 1862 exceeds that of 1861 by	45·37	

	Per Cent.	
Customs Reveuue of 1862 exceeds that of 1861 by	34·94	
Land Revenue of 1862 exceeds that of 1861 by	52·64	
Total Imports of 1862 exceeds that of 1861 by	36·39	
Total Exports of 1862 exceeds that of 1861 by	55·16	
Export of wool in lbs. of 1861 exceeds that of 1862 by	15·29	
Export of wool in £s sterling of 1862 exceeds that of 1861 by	2.30	
Export of tallow in lbs. of 1862 exceeds that of 1861 by	20·53	
Export of hides in number of 1861 exceeds that of 1862 by	—16·03	A diminution.
Shipping inwards of 1862 exceeds that of 1861 by	31·47	
Tonnage of shipping inwards of 1862 exceeds that of 1861 by	34·74	
Shipping outwards of 1862 exceeds that of 1861 by	30·34	
Tonnage of shipping outwards of 1862 exceeds that of 1861 by	229·78	
Persons taken into custody in 1862 exceeds that of 1861 by	53·99	

Conclusion.

The large area over which the European population of Queensland has so quickly spread itself, extending from the 29th to about the 18th parallel of south latitude, and from the 153d to about the 144th meridian of east longitude, has necessarily increased the difficulty of collecting the required returns from the more distant localities at a sufficiently early period of the year to permit their complete publication in this Register; and it will be observed that the stock returns from one district are wanting. In every other respect this Register will bear favourable comparison with those of former years; the returns are generally more complete, and have, I believe, been compiled with fewer errors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. DARVALL,
Registrar-General.

VICTORIA.

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir C. H. DARLING, K.C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 18.) Government Offices, Melbourne,
MY LORD DUKE, March 14, 1864.

OWING to a heavy pressure of business in the department of the Government printer, unusual delay has occurred in printing the annual volume for 1862, designated the "Statistics of Victoria," which for some years past has been substituted for the "Blue Book," required by the Colonial Regulations.

2. Your Grace is aware that my connexion with the Government of the Colony commenced many months after the close of the period embraced in this compilation, which I have now, therefore, the honour to transmit, with no other remark than that there is prefixed to it a statistical summary from the year 1836, viz., from the foundation of the Colony as a dependent settlement of the Government of New South Wales, up to the latest date to which it has been found possible to render with completeness the details embraced under the most important of the various heads which the summary includes.

3. This interesting and remarkable document (a copy of which I beg to annex) tells its own tale of a progress and prosperity which, although fluctuating in some of its main elements, is, upon the whole, I apprehend, unparalleled in colonial history. The steady annual increase in the number of schools, and of those attending them, and of churches and chapels, is, I trust, a sure indication that a people enjoying so large a measure of material prosperity are not unmindful of the foundations upon which their moral well-being and happiness should be established.

I have, &c.
His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. (Signed) C. H. DARLING.
&c. &c. &c.

Statistical Summary of Victoria from 1836 to 1862 inclusive.

Year.	Population.			Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immigration.	Emigration.	Flour Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	Land Sales.		Number of Acres under Cultivation.	Live Stock.			
	Males.	Females.	Persons.								Number of Acres.	Amount realized.		Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
												£					
1836	186	38	224	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	75	155	41,332	—
1837	984	280	1,264	7	1	1	740	—	—	—	88	7,116	—	—	—	—	—
1838	3,080	431	3,511	28	20	15	1,260	—	—	—	38,694	33,977	—	524	13,272	310,946	—
1839	4,104	1,718	5,822	142	67	57	3,221	—	—	—	38,280	70,236	—	—	—	—	—
1840	7,254	3,037	10,291	358	198	177	4,080	—	—	—	83,561	219,300	3,210	2,372	50,837	782,283	—
1841	14,391	6,025	20,416	618	319	406	6,908	939	—	—	49,311	49,311	4,881	—	—	—	—
1843	15,691	8,108	23,799	1,025	413	514	4,136	1,964	—	—	16,698	21,085	8,121	4,065	100,792	1,404,333	—
1843	15,892	8,211	24,103	1,317	313	364	1,264	2.000	—	—	7,338	8,296	12,068	6,278	167,156	1,602,798	—
1844	17,626	9,108	26,734	1,336	240	328	2,648	1,423	—	—	181	985	15,689	7,076	187,873	1,860,912	—
1845	20,624	10,656	31,280	1,521	327	316	4,335	1,519	—	—	3,685	8,718	25,094	9,289	231,602	1,792,527	3,986
1846	23,531	14,803	38,334	1,596	328	301	3,676	1,775	—	—	4,601	19,194	31,499	11,400	290,439	2,996,992	5,501
1847	26,004	16,932	42,936	1,661	361	337	4,568	1,540	—	—	27,337	69,122	37,189	13,292	322,824	4.164,203	5,015
1848	30,697	20,693	51,390	1,789	405	351	8,235	1,669	—	—	17,345	31,716	40,173	16,495	386,688	5,130,277	5,659
1849	39,556	26,664	66,220	1,913	593	593	14,618	1,992	—	—	27,610	70,146	52,185	16,733	346,562	5,318,046	—
1850	45,495	30,667	76,162	2,673	780	969	10,760	3,304	22	46	40,042	97,970	52,179	21,219	378,806	6,032,783	9,260
1851	58,235	39,254	97,489	3,049	1,165	1,023	15,433	3,706	27	56	93,707	201,840	57,298	22,086	390,923	6,589,923	7,372
1852	110,825	57,496	168,321	3,756	2,105	1,958	94,664	31,038	33	57	231,297	671,033	36,664	34,021	431,380	6,551,506	8,996
1853	146,456	75,980	222,436	3,025*	3,213*	2,550	92,312	42,443	20	208	283,928	1,548,441	34,654	15,166	410,139	5,594,220	—
1854	205,629	106,678	312,307	7,542	6,261	3,765	83,410	34,975	40	152	405,679	1,357,965	54,724	27,038	481,640	5,332,007	9,278
1855	234,450	129,874	364,324	11,941	6,603	3,847	66,571	26,395	51	227	438,972	763,554	115,135	33,430	534,113	4,577,872	20,686
1856	255,827	141,733	397,560	14,420	5,728	4,116	41,594	21,187	77	213	437,562	749,318	179,983	47,832	646,613	4,641,548	52,227
1857	297,547	165,588	463,135	17,384	7,449	4,524	74,255	20,471	88	386	500,383	1,067,450	237,729	55,683	614,537	4,766,022	43,632
1858	323,576	180,943	504,519	19,929	9,015	4,552	56,168	25,882	89	421	255,724	638,650	298,960	68,323	699,330	5,578,413	37,756
1859	335,708	194,554	530,262	22,092	9,469	4,769	32,735	19,615	97	407	459,082	814,164	358,728	69,288	683,534	5,794,127	50,965
1860	328,251	209,596	537,847	22,863	12,061	4,351	29,037	21,689	94	475	492,248	663,238	419,380	76,536	722,332	5,780,896	61,259
1861	321,724	220,076	541,800	23,461	10,522	4,434	26,912	35,898	104	429	514,745	623,588	439,895	84,057	628,092	6,239,258	43,480
1862	325,768	229,976	555,744	24,391	10,080	4,525	37,836	38,203	104	603	844,969	910,862	465,430	86,067	576,601	6,764,851	52.991

(continued.)

Year.	Shipping.				Exports of Colonial Produce.					Imports. (Total Value.)	Exports. (Total Value.)	Gross Revenue.†	Gross Expenditure.†	Schools.		Number of Churches, Chapels, &c.	Convictions in the Supreme Court.
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Gold.		Wool. (Value.)	Tallow. (Value.)	Hides and Skins. (Value.)					Number of Schools.	Scholars.		
	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.											
					oz.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£				
1836	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,165	—	—	—	—
1837	140	12,754	140	13,424	—	—	11,639	28	22	115,379	12,178	6,071	5,872	—	—	—	—
1838	137	11,717	136	11,679	—	—	21,631	489	117	73,230	27,998	40,020	16,874	4	78	—	—
1839	—	—	189	20,352	—	—	45,226	396	249	204,722	77,684	74,698	35,849	4	250	6	—
1840	262	43,416	232	34,334	—	—	67,902	953	251	435,367	128,860	255,984	70,129	11	625	13	—
1841	272	52,500	528	34,156	—	—	85,735	786	561	364,399	200,305	152,826	201,363	20	691	—	—
1842	237	43,760	225	34,265	—	—	151,446	975	801	277,427	198,783	87,296	124,631	—	—	—	—
1843	288	43,605	230	27,602	—	—	201,383	1,700	743	188,036	254,482	73,565	57,165	—	—	—	—
1844	229	29,966	247	34,596	—	—	174,044	13,907	989	151,062	256,847	69,913	63,048	—	—	—	—
1845	273	31,337	291	31,114	—	—	396,537	12,267	1,913	248,293	463,597	98,539	43,241	—	—	—	—
1846	349	40,569	340	35,717	—	—	351,441	3,049	2,256	315,561	425,201	96,347	51,095	—	—	—	—
1847	423	47,885	425	48,634	—	—	565,805	15,802	3,267	437,696	668,511	138,293	73,460	—	—	—	—
1848	469	67,618	446	55,094	—	—	556,521	37,968	2,066	373,676	675,359	144,761	140,260	—	—	—	—
1849	484	97,003	460	82,909	—	—	574,594	100,261	2,184	479,831	755,326	229,388	140,259	—	—	—	—
1850	555	108,030	508	87,087	—	—	826,190	132,863	5,196	744,925	1,041,796	259,433	196,440	160	6,807	28	111
1851	712	129,426	658	111,005	145,147	580,587	734,618	123,203	7,414	1,056,437	1,422,909	486,332	397,993	129	7,060	39	170
1852	1,657	408,216	1,475	350,296	2,724,933	10,899,733	1,062,787	60,261	13,306	4,069,742	7,451,549	1,577,181	909,253	115	7,841	49	471
1853	2,594	721,473	2,268	664,867	3,150,021	12,600,083	1,651,871	13,251	11,811	15,842,637	11,061,544	3,202,139	3,490,932	206	13,033	128	562
1854	2,596	794,604	2,607	798,837	2,392,065	9,568,262	1,618,114	22,750	29,465	17,659,051	11,775,204	6,154,928	6,043,049	391	20,107	187	370
1855	1,907	551,726	1,995	581,557	2,793,065	11,172,261	1,405,659	29,117	41,871	12,007,939	13,493,338	4,962,333	4,716,696	438	24,478	349	309
1856	1,920	538,609	1,959	538,362	2,985,696	11,942,783	1,503,613	35,980	72,103	14,962,269	15,489,760	2,946,658	2,232,064	455	26,323	473	272
1857	2,190	694,564	2,207	684,526	2,761,528	11,046,113	1,335,642	62,363	191,828	17,256,209	15,079,512	3,272,040	2,963,326	675	36,671	587	425
1858	2,034	648,103	2,015	641,254	2,528,188	10,112,752	1,678,290	43,987	106,527	15,108,249	13,989,209	3,064,783	2,915,379	740	42,432	745	535
1859	2,026	634,131	2,056	661,518	2,280,676	9,122,702	1,756,950	10,354	172,446	15,622,891	13,867,859	3,258,792	3,450,241	772	46,265	642	582
1860	1,814	531,642	1,841	599,137	2,156,661	8,626,642	2,025,066	18,269	144,236	15,093,730	12,962,704	3,039,035	3,311,308	886	51,668	874	416
1861	1,778	549,195	1,820	540,807	1,967,420	7,869,758	2,088,713	75,784	100,384	13,532,452	13,828,606	3,070,721	3,125,767	882	56,473	989	462
1862	1,715	556,188	1,766	581,892	1,658,285	6,685,192	2,350,956	66,515	130,350	13,487,787	13,039,422	3,217,750	2,853,121	989	65,541	1,137	414

* The Number of Births and Deaths given for 1853 are all of which there is any record, but they are known to be considerably under the mark. It is supposed that each in reality amounted to not less than 5,000. The deficiency has arisen owing to the system of registering Births and Deaths having been entirely changed during the year, and to the new system not having been at first properly understood. In consequence of this, and also owing to the unsettled state of the gold field population, it is known that many children born were neither baptized nor registered, and many persons who died were buried without registration or funeral service.

† The figures of Revenue and Expenditure are believed to be only approximate.

WILLIAM HENRY ARCHER, Registrar General.

TASMANIA.

No. 18.

[Not received.]

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 19.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir D. DALY to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 49.)

Government House, Adelaide,
September 19, 1862.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Grace the Blue Book of this Province for the year 1862. The annexed Report of the Government Statist, Mr. Josiah Boothby, is so ably and elaborately compiled as to obviate the necessity for any lengthened comments on my part. The Returns comprised in the Blue Book are important, as indicating a very satisfactory state of progress, and stamp the condition of the Colony, whether considered from a social, commercial, agricultural, financial, or general point of view, as exceedingly hopeful.

Population.

2. The population at the end of 1862 numbered 135,329 souls, being an increase of 4,702 over the previous year, of which 545 were gained by excess of immigration over emigration. It is gratifying to observe that the balance between the sexes is very evenly maintained, the entire population being composed of 69,608 males and 65,721 females. In this respect, South Australia shows the least disproportion of any of the Australian Colonies. This disparity as affecting the social condition of the inhabitants, is still more reduced when the comparison is made between the males and females from 21 years and upwards, the former numbering 30,637, and the latter 27,075. When it is borne in mind that pastoral pursuits engage the attention of a large portion of the community, and that a large number of adult males must necessarily be occupied in the arduous and hazardous task of opening up new country for settlement in the distant portions of the Province, the excess of 3,562 adult males must be considered as a necessary evil.

3. The attention that has been given to maintain throughout the marriageable ages this approach to equalization, by extensive assisted female immigration, will prove as the Colony advances of incalculable benefit, and the population will each succeeding year increase in a geometrical ratio.

4. With reference to nationality, the statistical tables show that the native-born amount to 38·35 per cent. of the population. The next largest class are persons of English birth, who form 35·36 per cent. Ireland has contributed 10 per cent., Germany 6·98 per cent., and Scotland 6·03 per cent. There are about one sixth more Englishmen than Englishwomen; the reverse being the case as regards the Irish, there being one third more Irishwomen than Irishmen. It is a matter for congratulation, as indicative of the steady industry of the great bulk of the people, that 85 per cent. of the population are country residents. The rapid settlement of an energetic people upon the agricultural lands of the Province, employed directly or indirectly in its cultivation, and in the opening up of new sources of mineral and pastoral wealth, cannot fail to advance the general prosperity.

Aborigines.

5. At the last general census in 1861 the total Aboriginal population in the occupied districts of the Province was 5,046. In the pastoral districts the proportion of the sexes was found to be nearly equal, but in the counties or settled districts the males considerably exceeded the females, the former being 1,022 in number and the latter 799. The whole of the children throughout the Colony numbered only 850.

6. It is the melancholy and all but unanimous testimony of the early settlers, and others best qualified to form a correct opinion, that the Aboriginal population is fast

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

dying out, but there are no records from which to ascertain the rate of decrease for the last year or any previous period. The causes of the decrease are disease, sterility, or infecundity of the females, and infanticide, which it is believed is a crime of very frequent occurrence.

7. Opinions are very conflicting as to how far their social condition is affected by the new settlements. From evidence given before a Select Committee of the Legislative Council in 1860, it appears that the natives in general have been in no way benefited by being brought into contact with Europeans; but I think this view is open to modification, since it cannot be denied that the squatters, who are justly called "the pioneers of civilization," treat them with much forbearance and kindness, and encourage the natives to remain on their "runs" for the sake of their services. The young men especially soon become exceedingly useful as shepherds, shearers, reapers, stock-keepers, colt breakers, &c., and the lubras as washerwomen and in other domestic occupations. About a fourth part of the able-bodied males were employed by the settlers in 1861, and the proportion is now probably even greater. Generally, they are well remunerated, and some of them obtain as high wages as the best white labourers.

8. It is pleasing to be able to inform your Grace that the reports of the Missionary establishments at Poonindie and Point Macleay are encouraging. At Poonindie there are 36 natives who receive careful religious and moral instruction, and who are trained to habits of industry. The experiment there made proves in its results the possibility of the civilization of the race, and confirms the opinion so often expressed by Missionaries that Christianity is the only efficient instrument for its accomplishment. Further evidence is afforded by the success of the Missionary Institution at Point Macleay. Doctor Walker, the Protector of the Aborigines, to whom I am chiefly indebted for this information, informs me that the beneficial influence of the religious instruction imparted to the natives is apparent without, as well as within the establishment. Many of their superstitions have been abandoned, their character for honesty has improved, they observe the Sabbath as a day of rest, and a considerable number appear at morning and evening service, neat and clean, and conduct themselves with great propriety; that the capacity of the young to receive education is proved beyond dispute, and that from frequent and personal examination he is of opinion that they make as rapid progress as the average of white children. The crime of infanticide is also less prevalent, and this is the only locality in the Province where the Aboriginal population instead of gradually declining is evidently increasing.

9. The extension of such agencies affords the only hope of the social as well as the moral and spiritual elevation of the race.

10. A sum of money is annually put on the estimates and voted by the legislature, for provisions, blankets, medical attendance, &c. for the Aborigines. The amount voted last year was 3,191*l.* 5*s.*, and this year a further sum of 500*l.* has been added. Depôts have been formed in the localities where the natives are more numerous, and flour, tea, sugar, blankets, &c. are distributed among the sick and infirm and destitute according to their necessities.

Immigration.

11. The amount expended on immigration during the year was 5,223*l.* against 6,984*l.* in 1861, but during the decennial period from 1853 to 1862 the total sum of 760,359*l.* was disbursed for this important service.

12. Prior to the establishment of responsible Government in October 1856, the Land Fund was, after deducting "primary charges," for survey and management of Crown lands, divided into two equal parts called the "Immigration Fund," and the "Crown Moiety" or "Reserved Fund." These divisions were not, however, always strictly adhered to, as the Executive had the power of transferring from one fund to the other. Subsequently, the amount for immigration was annually voted by Parliament; but during the Session of 1862 my ministry were fortunate in passing Act No. 17., which provides that one third of the gross proceeds of the sale of the waste lands of the Crown shall be appropriated as, and constitute a separate fund, to be called the "Immigration Fund."

Wages.

13. Blacksmiths, bricklayers, and skilled labourers were paid during 1862 at the rate of 10*s.* and ordinary labourers at 6*s.* per diem, being a decrease of 6*d.* on the daily rates current during the previous year. On the other hand, there was, during the same period, a slight advance on the wages given to domestic and farm servants.

14. This state of the labour market is very encouraging to the prudent and industrious immigrant, who sees a fair prospect before him of earning sufficient money in the course of two or three years to purchase or rent a farm for cultivation on his own account.

15. All the capital he requires to carry into effect this purpose does not exceed 100*l.*; a sum which at the present rate of wages is readily acquired, and with which an intelligent steady man may start with every prospect of success.

Savings Bank.

16. The returns connected with this establishment are satisfactory, and of themselves evidence the thriving condition of the labouring population. The total amount of depositors balances, including interest, in 1862, was 152,663*l.*, against 121,414*l.* in 1861.

17. There are numerous Friendly and Building Societies and kindred institutions in the Colony, of which the working classes avail themselves for investing their savings to advantage. Besides the foregoing, much money is lent by this class on mortgage, at from 8 to 12 per cent.

18. With labour fairly if not highly paid, provisions abundant and good and also reasonable in price, with cheap land within the reach of all, and with a mild and healthy climate, the position of the labouring man in this Colony may be viewed as an enviable one.

Insolvencies.

19. The insolvencies were, with one exception, productive of very little inconvenience to the commercial community. The bulk of them were trifling in amount, and the aggregate amount small, compared with the mercantile transactions of the Colony, which have been carried on with creditable punctuality. The total number of insolvencies was 165 against 108 in 1861, and the deficiency, as shown in the Insolvents Schedules, 68,970*l.*, against 63,761*l.* in 1861. Most of the petitioners for relief were small farmers, who, as stated in a former part of this Despatch, were mere labourers, and possessed little capital, but who, in cultivating land on their own account, incurred liabilities which the fall in the price of their produce prevented their discharging; but the insolvents themselves lived on the abundance of the land, and when relieved of their debts were immediately able to earn good wages as labouring men again.

20. The low price of grain which proved disadvantageous to the farming class of course represents abundance and cheapness of the necessaries of life for the labouring classes.

Litigation.

21. The facilities afforded by Act 15 of 1861, extending the jurisdiction of the Local Courts, (which came into force on the 31st March 1862,) appear to have led to an increase of litigation; the total number of summonses issued for hearing in the Local Courts of the Province being 8,099, and the total amount of claims sued for being 80,953*l.*, in 1862, against 5,839 summonses issued and 39,747*l.*, amount of claims sued for in 1861. The number of writs, however, issued in the Supreme Court was 1,011, against 1,120 in 1861, and the amount for which judgments were signed was 14,608*l.*, against 20,488*l.* in 1861.

Real Property Act.

22. The Real Property Act continues to advance steadily in public estimation and confidence, and in few other ways can this be more satisfactorily proved than in the fact that there is a general disposition not to lend money on any property which is not under that Act. The amount lent on mortgage under the Real Property Act in 1862 was 213,829*l.*, against 53,719*l.* in 1859. The total number of transactions in the Lands Titles Registration Office were 2,891, and the value of the land brought under the operation of the Act was 477,502*l.*, in 1862, against 2,183 and 451,475*l.* in 1861.

23. The Assurance Fund constituted by the Act, for compensating persons who may establish their title to land for which a Crown title has been issued to another, amounted at the end of the year to 4,329*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, of which 3,550*l.* was invested in bonds, and no demand has as yet been made upon it, which must be considered satisfactory, the Act having been already five years in operation.

24. The great benefit conferred by the Act is, that it fixes by the stamp of official authority every transaction in land under its provisions, thus doing away with the necessity for the investigation of the prior title, and the long and expensive abstracts of title which were the result of the old system, and is obviously of great advantage to those landowners whose titles, though good for holding, are not marketable, on account of some technical defect, or of the absence of the means of the strict legal proof, which the principles of the old system rendered necessary.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

25. Unquestionably in the first instance the Real Property Act received its sole support from the small land owners, who were a more numerous body compared with the large proprietors, and who, perhaps, from being frequently compelled to mortgage their property, were attracted by the cheap and speedy means of so doing thus held out to them.

26. Latterly, however, the large landowners have been equally taking advantage of it.

27. The receipts and expenditure of the establishment were as follows: In 1861 the receipts were 2,342*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, and the expenditure 4,416*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*; in 1862 the receipts were 3,315*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, and the expenditure 4,531*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*

Crown Lands.

28. I beg to submit for your Grace's notice the accompanying diagram,* which I have caused to be drawn up in the Surveyor General's Department, illustrating at once the rise and fall during each year, as well as the accumulation in the sale of Crown Lands during the successive years from the foundation of the Colony to date, and also exhibiting the amount realized by such sales. It shows also the number of immigrants introduced and the gross cost of the Immigration Department, which is peculiarly a charge against the Land Fund, under the system of colonization by which this Colony was founded. Accurate information connected with the statistics of the Immigration Department could only be furnished from the year 1847.

29. It will be seen that during 1862 the area of land sold by the Crown was 129,910 acres, which realized 152,659*l.*, against 147,355 acres, and for which 189,015*l.* was paid into the Treasury in 1861. From 1835 to the close of 1862 the total extent of land alienated from the Crown was 2,510,315 acres, or upwards of 4,400 square miles (giving upwards of 62 acres to each male over 14 years of age), which realized 3,150,216*l.*

30. It would be a work of supererogation to enlarge on this subject, as the diagram affords, at a glance, more information than I could hope otherwise to convey so intelligibly.

Agriculture.

31. The returns show that 2,105,877 acres of land were enclosed at the end of 1862. The average cost of enclosure, I am informed, may be stated at 70*l.* per mile. The area of land under cultivation was 494,511 acres in 1862, against 486,667 acres in 1861. The main crops cultivated were, wheat, barley, oats, maize, and hay. The wheat crop extended over 320,160 acres in 1862, giving 3,841,824 bushels, or an average produce of 12 bushels to the acre, while it covered 310,636 acres in 1861, yielding 3,410,756 bushels, or an average produce of 10 bushels and 59 lbs. to the acre.

32. The produce of 12 bushels per acre appears strikingly small when contrasted with the average produce of wheat in the United Kingdom, and which is given by Mr. M'Culloch at 30 bushels. I have before me a letter from a gentleman largely engaged in agricultural pursuits, and I do not think I can do better than to place the following extract before your Grace:—"The reason for the low average as to quantity "per acre is that a very large extent of very bad land has been ploughed up; land "that could scarcely be expected to yield a crop before it had been well worked and "manured, and which will not be done while land is so much cheaper than labour. In "fact the least possible amount of labour is bestowed upon the land here. It is simply "ploughed, sown, and reaped. I know land in the neighbourhood of Gawler that has "been cropped every year for the last 14 years with only one small sprinkling of "manure. This slovenly mode of cultivation will easily account for the small produce "in the Colony. In spite of all this there cannot be a question but that our "agriculturists, &c. do progress, and improve their position and means, by adding "section to section and field to field. This may be accounted for by the numerous "lucrative employments they can turn their attention to, when not actually occupied "on their farms; but the great help is the machine known as Ridley's reaping machine, "which may with more propriety be called a thrashing machine, for it travels over "and actually thrashes the crop as it stands, and with it two men (with two men to "work the machine) may in an ordinary harvest day gather in from 12 to 14 acres "of wheat, which after this process will only require winnowing to prepare it for the "market. This machine is a colonial invention, constructed first by Mr. John Ridley "about the year 1841 or 1842, in a season when it was found that the labour within "the Colony was quite unequal to the task of gathering in the harvest. It has since "that time been improved upon, and has become so common that no farm is to be "found without one, and upon the use of this implement depends the success of our "agricultural operations; for without it one tenth of the grain grown in this Colony

* Not printed.

" could not be gathered in. During the past year 252,994 acres of wheat were reaped by machine, and 66,291 acres by hand.

33. " The climate of the more southern Colonies of Australasia being so much less " suited to the use of this implement gives us a very great advantage, and enables us to " compete successfully with them in the produce of grain.

34. " Although the average produce of the Colony is very low, it is satisfactory to " know that where an improved system of agriculture has been adopted it has proved " successful, and those who have been able to improve their position and secure large " farms are now adopting a more expensive course of fallowing and resting the land. " and they find the yield is greatly increased. It is computed by competent authority " that one man with two horses can well cultivate 80 acres of land, doing all the work " that is required to plough, sow, and gather in the crop, by using the machine above " referred to."

35. The exports of bread stuffs, grain, &c., the produce of the Colony, were valued at 633,241*l.* against 712,789*l.* in 1861. This decrease represents simply the decline in the value of the produce. Reference to the tables will show that the quantities of flour, bran, and pollard, wheat, barley, and oats, exported, were greatly in excess of the quantities exported in the previous year.

36. While the farmers have been actively engaged in bringing under culture an extent of land mapped out by tens of thousands of acres annually, the squatters, with untiring energy and sterling Anglo-Saxon enterprise, have been spreading their flocks and herds over country measured by hundreds of thousands of acres; and as year after year the astonishing increase of live stock proceeded they have continued to spread over wider and wider areas, until the country occupied for pastoral purposes now extends from the south-eastern angle of the Province to within 120 miles of the 27th degree of latitude, and to the westward to the head of the great Australian Bight. The country lying north-east of Spencer's Gulf, which for many years was reported to be barren and worthless, is now thickly stocked. In 1840 there were 959 horses, 16,052 horned cattle, and 166,770 sheep, grazing on the pastoral lands of the Colony; at the close of 1862 there were 56,251 horses, 258,342 horned cattle, and 3,431,000 sheep. The total area leased for depasturing purposes was 36,901 square miles, besides an area of 25,571 square miles applied for but not yet leased.

37. Commensurate with the vast increase of live stock has been the produce of the wool staple, the total export of which amounted at the end of 1862 to 13,229,009 lbs., representing a money value of 635,270*l.*

38. The accompanying diagram* will best illustrate the rapid growth of the pastoral wealth of the Province, and the map enclosed herewith shows the exact localities of the " runs " which are occupied, and also distinguishes by means of different colours the areas leased in each year, as well as the lands applied for, under the Waste Lands Regulations, but which are not yet leased. It shows also the lines of main road, in all 236 miles, formed and metalled to the close of 1862; 57 miles of railway, along which rolled 306,140 passengers and 187,762 tons of goods; the 709 miles of telegraphic lines opened, with 1,026½ miles of wire, by which 76,725 messages were transmitted; and also the 52 mines which were in operation, and from which metals and minerals valued at 547,619*l.* were exported.

39. With regard to the possibility of extension, that is, the possibility of profitably occupying for pastoral purposes the remote country not yet taken up, I may quote the following remarks from a recent writer, who says,—" For some years after the Colony " was founded, it was held that country could not be profitably occupied 40 or 50 miles " remote from Adelaide. When I first came here in 1849 the majority of the squatting " stations did not extend more than 100 miles, though there were outlying stations for " 100 miles more, and it was then said it was impossible profitably to go further. Now, " far to the north of this point, all the country is occupied, and the further stations " extend to between 400 and 500 miles from Adelaide, and now, and at all inter- " mediate periods, the theory of the impossibility of profitable extension has had " numerous advocates. I cannot, however, find any more salient arguments against " further extension than have been advanced at each of these periods, and in the mean- " time the discoveries of Mr. Stuart and others have established that an immense tract " of country is open, and fit for occupation, if the distance from the seaboard be not too " great. I can only say, that during the rapid and great extension that has actually " taken place precisely the same arguments have at all times been forthcoming to prove " that it could not go further, and are now advanced to prove the same thing.

" The difficulties of transit are precisely among the difficulties which human ingenuity

* Not printed.]

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

" in the present age is most successfully overcoming, and are of a kind that need not " greatly check our increased hopes for the future productiveness of Australia."

Imports.—Exports.

41. The total imports were valued at 1,820,656*l.*, against 1,976,018*l.* in 1861; and the total exports at 2,145,796, against 2,032,311 in 1861, of which the produce of the Colony is stated at 1,920,487*l.*, against 1,838,639 in 1861. This large and progressive increase in colonial produce will be found chiefly under the three heads of Bread Stuffs, Grain, &c., Wool, and Metals and Minerals, the exports of which together amounted to 1,816,130*l.*

Revenue.

42. The amount of revenue raised was 548,709*l.*, against 558,586*l.* in 1861. This decrease arose in the customs receipts, which stood at 116,445*l.*, against 126,465*l.* in 1861, and was the effect of the abolition of the five per cent. ad valorem duties, and the imposition of a fixed duty on the items beer, &c., spirits, wine, hops, coffee, sugar, tea, and tobacco.

Expenditure.

43. The gross expenditure was 579,382*l.*, against 482,951*l.* in 1861. The excess of expenditure over revenue is apparent but not real, since there was a balance in the Treasury on the 31st December 1862 of 73,371*l.*, and which amount was carried to the credit of this year. It is also desirable that I should observe that the sum expended on public works was 134,537*l.*, against 104,511*l.* in 1861, and payments for interest and redemption of loans for public works were made to the amount of 81,600*l.* against 50,855*l.* in the previous year.

Public Debt.

44. The amount of loans for public works outstanding on the 31st December 1862 was 853,300*l.*

Manufactories.

45. The tables referring to manufactories, works, &c., in the municipal towns and country districts, during the years 1861 and 1862, evidence the enterprize and self relying character of the colonists. There were 70 brick manufactories, against 59 in 1861, and 42 manufactories of agricultural implements, against 40 in 1861. Among the 198 other manufactories is one for the production of ice, which merits notice. Adelaide is now abundantly supplied with ice, artificially made, according to the process invented and patented by Mr. Harrison. The manufacture is conducted by Messrs. Sinnett and Co., the proprietors of the patent right for this Colony, and their manufactory has been in operation for about three years.

46. The machinery at present standing is capable of producing nearly three tons of ice in the twenty-four hours, and the ice is supplied to consumers at so moderate a rate as to have brought it into very general use, in substitution of a very uncertain supply at a very heavy expense.

Botanic Garden.

47. A botanic garden was established in Adelaide in 1855. It was suggested, laid out, and is still managed by the first Director, Mr. G. W. Francis, F.H.S., acting under a board of Governors. It consists of 40 acres of fruitful and undulating ground, commanding a fine view of home park like scenery, and of a magnificent range of mountains six or seven miles distant. Part of the ground has been excavated into extensive lakes and watercourses, which are covered with water fowl, with rustic bridges, water falls, islands, &c. About 30 acres are laid out in ornamental cultivation, and contain a vast collection of native and other plants; also there are numerous cages and enclosures for native animals.

48. In 1858 a special grant of 1,000*l.* was allowed for a domed conservatory. This is a large and handsome structure, filled with palms and other tropical produce. It is flanked by two houses for florists flowers; various summer houses, seats, and places of shelter are scattered about the ground; and numerous fountains, statues, and vases decorate various parts. There has been lately built a model in rustic work of the Parthenon, intended as a museum and lecture room. This is flanked by two rustic houses, one for ferns, the other for orchids. So favourite is the garden as a place of public resort, that generally there are hundreds of visitors, and on Sunday afternoons and on public holidays 2,000 or 2,500 are very usual numbers. Nothing is sold, and nothing charged for admittance. The garden is open every day; on Saturday and Sunday for limited hours;

on the other days from sunrise to sunset. The whole expense is about 2,500*l.* a year, voted annually. SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Exploration.

49. 1862 will be ever memorable in the annals of South Australia, as having been the year in which Mr. Stuart and his party crossed the continent from the shores on the Southern Ocean to those washed by the Indian Sea in Van Diemen's Gulf, and established the practicability of a direct overland route, and also dissipated the idea so long entertained with regard to the sterility of the interior, and its utter unfitness for profitable settlement. In my Despatch No. 73., of the 23d December 1862, I informed your Grace that Mr. Stuart, in speaking to me of this route, had used these words, "that it "could be made a straight line for telegraphic purposes, whilst no difficulty exists on the "whole line to prevent horses, cattle, or sheep from being driven across, having been in "his last journey only one night without water, and of the permanency of these waters "he has not the least doubt."

Gold.

50. For some time past there has been a growing conviction that the range of mountains within sight of this city present strong indications of the existence of gold bearing rocks. This belief possesses importance from the fact that gold has been discovered, in small quantities, at various intervals of time, and in several places along the range, besides which several shafts have been sunk at Echunga, and from which gold in paying quantities has been obtained. The diggings there strike me as being similar in appearance to some of the Victorian gold fields, which I visited in the early part of 1862. There is an impression abroad that the search for gold has not hitherto been carried on with sufficient energy, or with that combination of theory and practice which becomes so important to ensure success in mining matters. Urged by these views, I am happy to report that my Government has just engaged the services of Mr. Hargraves, the gentleman so well known in connexion with the gold fields of Victoria and New South Wales, and who is to receive a salary at the rate of 1,000*l.* a year during the time he shall be engaged in superintending the search for gold in this province. The Parliament have also offered a reward of 5,000*l.* to the discoverer of a remunerative gold field. It therefore appears more than probable that at no distant day I may have the satisfaction of announcing to your Grace that the precious metal has been added to the many existing sources of prosperity of this thriving Colony.

Conclusion.

51. I have treated the subjects embraced in this Report at greater length than I had at first contemplated, but I have found it difficult to say less, due regard being had to their importance, as illustrating the rapid growth and present prosperous state of the Colony.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. (Signed) D. DALY, Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 19.

REPORT to the Honourable HENRY AYERS, M.L.C., Chief Secretary, &c. &c. &c. Encl. in No. 19.

SIR, Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, July 20, 1863.

IN presenting the "Statistical Register of South Australia for the year ended 31st December 1862," I have the honour to submit, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, the accompanying prefatory report.

Having on several occasions drawn attention to the advantages derivable from the dissemination of carefully prepared statistical returns upon all subjects of importance, whether relating to the social progress or material welfare of the Colonists, I may be permitted to state that, through the support the Government have been pleased to accord to me, the fifth annual issue of this volumne appears as a reliable record of all matters affecting the Colony, of which statistics can be at present collated. Experience continually suggests improvements in the method of rendering the information, some of which will be observed in the following tables; and in these brief remarks I shall epitomise the chief facts brought to light, with a view to afford those persons, who from want of opportunity or inclination are precluded from studying voluminous statistical tables, a general insight into the subjects of which they treat, and for the information of the many here and abroad whom the more detailed reports annually presented to Parliament fail to reach, but who are deeply interested in the Colony's development.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

Additional returns are this year inserted, showing the births and deaths in each month, together with the causes of death, specified in the several classes and orders as at present adopted by the

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Registrar-General of England and the neighbouring Colonies. As the Registrar-General of births, deaths, and marriages now presents an annual report on this subject, it becomes unnecessary to refer minutely to the vital statistics of the Colony. The following are the principal results.

In 1862, 6,075 births were registered; 3,090 males and 2,985 females; exceeding the number registered in the previous year by 574. 1,189 marriages were solemnized, being 31 more than last year.

Of the 1,918 deaths recorded, or 44 less than in the previous year, 814 were those of infants under one year, and 1,028 under two years of age, together forming 53 per cent. of the total mortality, against 53·8 per cent. in 1861, and 57·7 per cent. in 1860.

The natural increase of the population by the excess of births over deaths was 4,157 persons, or at the rate of 3·1 per cent., against 2·8 per cent. in the previous year.

Charitable Institutions.

Classed under this head are returns solely from the establishments supported by the State for the relief of bodily and mental suffering, and which take the place of what are elsewhere chiefly sustained by private benefaction or voluntary subscriptions. Great assistance is afforded, however, to the sick through the agency of numerous friendly societies throughout the Colony, and by various private benevolent institutions; but no reliable record of their operations in this respect is at present obtainable. It should be borne in mind that the Government establishments in Adelaide receive cases from all parts of the Colony, and therefore must not be viewed as the eleemosynary assistance required by the metropolis.

The number of patients admitted to the Adelaide Hospital during 1862 was 752, or 40 more than in the previous year. The number of cases treated was 842, out of which 60 terminated fatally; 663 patients were discharged (cured or relieved), and 119 remained in the establishment on the last day of the year. The daily average number in the hospital was 106; 65 males and 41 females; against 89 in the year 1861.

The diseases treated are specified for ten years under their various classes; and although, during that period, the annual number of patients treated has increased from 398 to 842, it is satisfactory to notice that the deaths were, with one exception, less numerous last year than in either of its predecessors. The average duration of stay of patients, whether labouring under acute or chronic diseases, bears a similarly favourable contrast with former years.

The records of the Lunatic Asylum show the number of inmates at the commencement of the year to have been 167, and the admissions during the year 73 persons; 45 males and 28 females; making a total number of 240 patients treated, or 30 more than in 1861. 44 inmates were discharged (either cured or relieved), and 19 deaths occurred; 12 males and 7 females; reducing the number remaining in the asylum on the last day of 1862 to 177 persons, or an increase of ten over the number at same date last year. The average daily number of inmates was 171; 97 males and 73 females; against 152 in the previous year.

The number of inmates of the Destitute Poor Asylum was 116; 58 males and 58 females; all of whom may be classed as aged and infirm, or sick persons, and deserted children; no able-bodied person being at any time allowed in-door relief. These numbers are considerably less than in any year since 1856, and show a reduction of 20 on the last return. The number of persons to whom out-door relief was administered has fallen from 429, in 1861, to 347, being many less than the number relieved in either of the three previous years. All the male adults and many of the females were relieved in consequence of sickness; the residue, with the whole of the children, became recipients either through the death or desertion of the head of the family.

The total cost of these establishments is defrayed by Government, and amounted in 1862 to 14,336*l.*, a considerable reduction on the annual expenditure of each of the preceding six years, in connexion with charitable institutions.

Crime.

From the circumstance of this Province never having been a receptacle of transported offenders, is to be attributed the comparative immunity from peril of life and property, serious offences, in South Australia, being of unfrequent occurrence. After an interval of eight years, however, during which period no white person suffered the extreme penalty of the law, two offenders were convicted, in 1862, of the crime of murder, and sentences of death carried into execution.

With the above exceptions, the number of convictions in the Supreme Court, for offences against the person, have numbered eight only in each of the three past years; offences against property, brought to a conviction, numbered 36, against 40 in 1861. The total number of offenders convicted before a jury was 64, being two more than in 1861, but many less than in either of the nine years preceding.

Of 336 cases preliminarily investigated in the magistrates courts (a less number than in any year since 1856), 117 were committed to the Supreme Court; 90 to the local courts of full jurisdiction, and 129 were dismissed. The proportion of convictions in the Supreme Court is about 55 per cent. of the number committed for trial.

Minor offences, informations laid under Acts of Council, and charges of drunkenness, heard and determined by the magistrates in a summary way, numbered 3,618 cases, and 495 informations were laid, but not proceeded with. The number of minor charges preferred is yearly increasing, but the convictions do not maintain a similar proportion. The number of charges of drunkenness in streets was 925, or one less; and the convictions, 891, or two less than in the previous year. Comparing the convictions for this offence during the past three years against those of the three preceding years, viz. 2,650 and 3,526 respectively, it will be seen that this evil has very considerably lessened.

Education.

Returns of the Central Board of Education show an increase in the number of licensed schools and schoolmasters; the former being 227, the latter 155. The number of schoolmistresses was 72. The scholars number 11,417 on the rolls, the average attendance being 8,810, an increase of 504 on the previous year. Seventy-seven per cent. of the whole number of scholars were taught at schools situate in the country districts, 14 per cent. in the city of Adelaide, and nine per cent. in other municipal towns. The proportion of boys to girls was 53·7 to 46·3 respectively, nearly the same as in the three previous years. Seventy-eight per cent. of the numbers on the roll attended on the average; a slight improvement. The average number of scholars on the roll at each licensed school 50·3; the average attendance 38·8. The above relate only to licensed schools. It is estimated that, including private schools, the proportion of scholars to the whole population is as 1 in 7·6. Forty-eight district schoolhouses have been erected on an approved plan, and to which aid has granted to the amount of 9,133*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* The expenditure defrayed by the Board amounted in 1862 to 14,852*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, of which 11,551*l.* 10*s.* was distributed in stipends to teachers, giving an average amount for each scholar of 1*l.* 0*s.* 2¾*d.* 10,695*l.* 3*s.* was received by teachers from parents, &c. of scholars, as school fees, making for each scholar 1*l.* 0*s.* 4½*d.* In addition, 860*l.* 12*s.* was paid in the shape of fees by the Government for the education of destitute children and orphans, giving an average cost of each child 1*l.* 19*s.* 0¾*d.* Each licensed school costs on the average 61*l.* 5*s.* 4½*d.*, all expenses included.

The returns from the South Australian Institute, and the country institutes, 27 in all, show a large increase in the numbers availing themselves of these educational aids, additional material for usefulness, and increased support in voluntary subscriptions. The total number of books in their respective libraries was 24,166; the number of subscribers, 2,157; and the annual income, 2,228*l.*, exclusive of the Government grant, amounting to 1,500*l.*

During the past 10 years Government has devoted 133,828*l.* to the cause of education; in 1862 the expenditure amounted to 16,179*l.*

Exchange, Currency, &c.

The banking returns now being supplied to an uniform date, a comparison of the assets and liabilities of the several banks can be instituted half yearly. During the past few years, banking facilities have been much extended, branches having been established in all towns of importance throughout the Province.

The following is a comparison of the statements of the average liabilities and assets of the several banks within the Colony for the half years ended 31st December 1861 and 1862 respectively, taken from the weekly statements :—

Liabilities.

	1861.			1862.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Notes in circulation	238,223	8	7	228,766	7	8
Bills in circulation	9,020	3	3	9,851	7	4
Balances due to other banks	33,705	14	11	17,171	12	8
Deposits	743,737	10	5	703,035	11	3
Total average liabilities £	1,024,686	17	2	958,824	18	11

Assets.

	1861.			1862.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Coin and bullion	338,255	19	11	270,433	13	7
Government securities	4,600	0	0	4,600	0	0
Landed property and bank premises	52,534	8	10	56,461	1	11
Notes and bills of other banks	12,824	12	3	9,268	15	2
Balances due from other banks	28,651	6	1	47,244	0	0
Notes and bills discounted, and other debts due to banks not enumerated	1,432,201	18	3	1,542,906	19	0
Total average assets £	1,869,068	5	4	1,930,914	9	8

The usual returns, showing the rates of exchange and of interest allowed to depositors prevailing during the year, are also given, together with statements of the coin and bullion held, and the note circulation of the banks during the past eight years.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Savings Bank.

This institution affords, through its annual returns, a valuable index to the state of the industrial classes, as regards their power of accumulation and general prosperity. Still more favorable than even its predecessors, the statement for the year 1862 shows a large increase in the number of depositors, and in the amount deposited, and strongly evidences the favorable position of the class most largely availing itself of the benefits of this institution. The following figures give the more important items of the returns for the four past years:—

		1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.
New accounts	No.	706	893	1,081	1,264
Increase in depositors	„	271	367	681	629
Amount deposited	£	39,430	52,293	65,373	79,482
„ withdrawn	„	34,906	38,168	37,627	54,495
„ depositors' balances	„	71,895	88,889	121,414	152,663
„ reserve funds	„	7,550	9,126	10,175	10,842
„ total funds	„	79,445	99,016	131,590	163,506

The amount lent on mortgage now amounts to 106,362*l.* sterling.

In 1862, a branch was opened at Port Adelaide. The figures for the previous years apply, therefore, to the chief office, which, up to the close of 1861, conducted the whole business for the Colony. The numerous friendly and building societies and kindred institutions have, however, afforded means to the working classes of investing their savings to a very large extent.

Immigration and Emigration.

Government assisted immigration was resumed towards the close of the year, after a lapse of 20 months; the returns showing an addition to the population, by the excess of arrivals over departures, of 545 souls. Two immigrant ships arrived during the latter part of 1862, bringing 611 persons, thus nearly counterbalancing the efflux to the New Zealand Gold Fields in the early part of the year. The returns of departures hence now being checked by the official list of arrivals in the neighbouring colonies, intercolonial migration by sea is accurately enumerated.

The two immigrant vessels above referred to brought 281 males and 330 females; 293 of English, 183 of Scotch, and 135 of Irish nationality.

From Great Britain the total arrivals numbered 972, against 334 last year; the departures for Great Britain were 256, and 244 last year. From British Colonies, chiefly the neighbouring, 2,111 persons arrived, against 2,598 in 1861; and the departures 2,421 persons, against 1,833 in the previous year. Of the 2,421 persons departing in 1862, 1,438 were adult males, most on a temporary visit to the gold fields. 147 persons arrived from foreign states. Only eight departed direct for foreign ports. The aggregate arrivals numbered 3,230, the departures 2,685, leaving an increase of 545 souls, as above stated.

Without a continuous stream of well-selected immigrants, the working power of the population cannot be maintained, even at its present small ratio. Of the whole community, the males of 14 years of age and upwards form only about 35 per cent. During the five years, 1853–7, 38,457 persons were added to the population by immigration. In the same period, 33,420 persons were introduced at the public expense. During the last last five years, 1858–62, 7,168 Government immigrants have arrived; but the net increase of population by sea has only been 6,531 persons during that period. The immigration expenditure during the former quinquennial period was 611,109*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*, and 149,249*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* during the latter.

Imports and Exports.

The combined import and export trade last year was slightly under that of its predecessor, being 3,966,452*l.*, against 4,008,329*l.* The falling off occurs in the imports, which amount to only 1,820,656*l.*, against 1,976,018*l.*, whilst the exports have increased from 2,032,211*l.* to 2,145,796*l.* There appears in 1862 a net excess of exports over imports of 325,140*l.* against an excess of 56,293*l.* in 1861. Imports retained for home consumption amounted to 1,595,347*l.* during the year, against 1,782,346*l.* in 1861. The increase on the exports of produce of the Colony is 81,848*l.*; the figures for the two years being 1,920,487*l.* and 1,838,639*l.* respectively. The value of imported goods reshipped and exported was 225,309*l.*, against 193,672*l.* in 1861.

From the United Kingdom we received 1,178,963*l.* worth of goods, being an excess of 235,356*l.* over the exports hence, 943,607*l.* The direct trade with the Mother Country now reaches over 2,000,000*l.* sterling, the balance of trade being considerably in favour of South Australia, taking the shipments to Great Britain by way of Melbourne into account.

Victoria supplied us with goods to the value of 198,274*l.*, the exports thence reaching 556,422*l.*, a balance of 358,148*l.* in our favour. The combined import and export trade with that Colony during the past year fell to 754,696*l.* from 1,191,803*l.* in 1861, occasioned by a reduction in the quantity of goods imported of 167,754*l.*, and in the value of the exports of 269,373*l.* on that year's operations.

Exports to New South Wales have increased from 252,713*l.* in 1861 to 323,994*l.* in 1862, the imports thence falling from 206,819*l.* to 129,798*l.*, the balance of trade in favour of this Colony advancing from 45,894*l.* to 194,196*l.*

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Other Australian Colonies received from this Province produce to the following amounts:—Queensland 1861, 11,650*l.*; 1862, 20,264*l.* Western Australia 1861, 19,742*l.*; 1862, 13,178*l.* And New Zealand in 1861, 20,801*l.*, rising to 72,870*l.* in 1862. The shipments to the Cape Colony in 1861 were valued at 2,706*l.*; in 1862 at 20,446*l.*; and to India the exports have risen from 33,858*l.* to 145,645*l.* From the before-mentioned places the imports are inconsiderable. The imports (23,631) from Tasmania exceeded the exports thence by 21,287*l.* From China in 1861 we received 66,539*l.*, and 84,119*l.* in 1862, without any direct export in return.

The usual detailed tables of imports and exports supplied by the Collector of Customs are appended, showing the quantity and value of articles, place of shipment, quantity entered for home consumption or of Colonial produce exported, and the amount of customs duties collected.

Exports, the Produce of the Colony.

Similar information to that afforded in previous years is given under this head, showing the shipments of South Australian staple produce during the past decennial period, and the places to which the chief articles have been exported.

The following tables show at a glance the rapid strides made during that period in the export trade of the three great staples, breadstuffs, wool, and minerals. Since 1852 the aggregate exports of Colonial produce has amounted to thirteen and a half millions, of which the exports of flour and grain, after supplying our own requirements, amounted to over five millions; of wool, to over four and a quarter millions; and of minerals, chiefly copper, to over three millions and a half sterling, the remaining half million being composed of miscellaneous products, raw or manufactured.

The total exports of produce and of each of the great staples in the years 1853, 1857, and 1862,—the shipments in the five years ended 1857 and 1862 respectively,—with the average annual export during those periods,—and the proportion which the shipments of agricultural, pastoral and mineral produce bore to the whole of produce exported, are shown in the next table.

Period.	Total Exports of Produce.	Of which Exports.			
		Breadstuffs, Grain, &c.	Wool.	Copper and other Minerals.	Miscellaneous Products.
	£	£	£	£	£
In the year 1853	731,595	257,144	236,020	176,744	61,687
„ 1857	1,744,184	755,840	504,520	458,839	24,985
„ 1862	1,920,487	633,241	635,270	547,619	104,357
Total in five years, 1853–57	5,255,521	2,121,972	1,618,601	1,294,013	220,935
„ 1858–62	8,192,658	2,924,795	2,737,455	2,230,628	299,780
Average of five years, 1853–57	1,051,104	424,394	323,720	258,402	44,187
„ 1858–62	1,638,131	580,959	547,491	446,125	59,956
Rate per cent. of average exports of 1853–57	100*	40·4	30·8	24·6	4·2
„ „ 1858–62	100*	35·4	33·4	27·2	3·9

It will be seen that whilst at the commencement of the decade (1853) the exports of produce did not amount to three quarters of a million, they reached at its close nearly two millions sterling. The average yearly shipments of the first five years 1853–57 were valued at 1,051,104*l.*, and of the second, 1858–62, at 1,638,131*l.*; the actual exports in the past year amounting to 1,920,487*l.*, declared value.

The average annual exports of the five years ending 1862 show the following increases upon the average of the previous five years, viz.:—

Upon the total exports of produce 56 per cent.; upon the export of breadstuffs 37 per cent.; upon wool 67 per cent.; upon copper and other minerals 70 per cent. increase; and 30 per cent. on miscellaneous products.

Each class of staple-produce exports contributed in the following proportions to the total shipments of South Australian produce, calculated upon the yearly average of the six quinquennial periods mentioned, viz.:—

Of the Total Shipments.	Average, 1851–1855.	Average, 1852–1856.	Average, 1853–1857.	Average, 1856–1860.	Average, 1857–1861.	Average, 1858–1862.
Breadstuffs, &c. formed - per cent.	32·3	37·1	40·4	38·2	38·0	35·5
Wool - - - „	28·4	29·0	30·8	31·6	32·5	33·4
Copper, &c. - - „	32·9	28·5	24·6	27·6	26·7	27·2
Miscellaneous products - „	6·4	5·4	4·2	2·6	2·8	3·9

It therefore appears that the three great staples are now shipped in nearly equal proportions, and that the shipments of agricultural products, so long predominant in the returns, have declined,

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

while those of the pastoral and mining interests have advanced. The first-named class gave 35½ per cent., the second class 33½ per cent., and the third 27 per cent. of the average annual export of staple produce during the years 1858 to 1862 inclusive.

Bread Stuffs, Grain, &c.

With reference to the value of cereal produce exported, as shown in the preceding table, it will be remarked that the value of the shipments in 1857 exceeded those of 1862, owing to the high rates ruling in the former year. The quantity exported in 1862 was 51,092 tons (flour and wheat), against 37,554 tons in 1857, an increase of 13,538 tons, or 36 per cent.

The value of bread stuffs exported in 1861 amounted to 712,789*l.*, against 633,241*l.* last year; but the quantity of flour and wheat shipped was 3,100 tons more in 1862 than in the previous year. The export during the past five years has averaged in value 580,959*l.*, against 424,394*l.* in the previous similar period; but the quantity shipped in those periods amounted to 180,779 tons and 85,509 tons respectively. The export of wheat in grain has increased six fold, whilst that of flour has not doubled, comparing the average of the years 1858–62 with that of 1853–7, as exhibited in the annexed table.

Period.	Flour.	Wheat.	Total (in Flour).	Bran and Pollard.
	Tons.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
In the year 1853	7,671	61,856	9,045	2,710
„ 1857	33,103	200,328	37,554	6,553
„ 1862	35,604	696,960	51,092	6,700
Total in five years, 1853–57	76,676	397,504	85,509	17,564
„ 1858–62	132,113	2,189,992	180,779	24,139
Average of five years, 1853–57	15,335	79,501	17,102	3,513
„ 1858–62	26,423	437,998	36,156	4,828

At present the largest customer for wheat and flour is New South Wales, taking 13,869 tons of the latter, and 39,460 quarters of the former. Victoria took 10,416 tons flour, and 18,153 quarters of wheat; a very considerable decrease upon the quantity shipped there in 1861. New Zealand took 1,972 tons flour and 17,673 quarters of wheat; and Queensland, Mauritius, and Cape Town about 1,500 tons each; all much larger quantities than had hitherto been shipped to those markets. Small parcels were shipped to India, Batavia, and Hong Kong; thus opening up new markets. To Great Britain the exports of flour amounted to 3,607 tons (against 344 tons in 1861), and of wheat to 6,303 quarters, against 30 quarters in the previous year.

Wool.

Last year, 13,229,009 lbs. weight of wool were shipped, against 13,164,391 lbs. in 1861; the declared value being 635,270*l.* and 623,007 respectively.

From the decennial return it will be seen the total shipment of wool during the five years ending 1857 was 31,592,636 lbs., giving an average annual export of 6,318,527 lbs. weight; and that the shipments of the past five years nearly doubled those amounts, having reached 55,396,711 lbs., and the average yearly shipment 11,079,342 lbs. weight. The shipments in 1862 were nearly treble those of 1853, ten years ago.

After deducting from the total of last year's shipment the quantity of wool imported viâ River Murray (989,720 lbs.), it appears that the South Australian clip amounted to 12,239,289 lbs., which gives the average weight of each fleece at a trifle over 3½ lbs., calculating the total number of sheep and lambs returned for that year, viz., 3,431,000, to have been shorn.

The following summary shows the rapid increase in the export of wool which has characterized the last 10 years.

Period.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	£ s. d.
In the year 1853	4,607,281	236,020 0 0
„ 1857	9,695,203	504,520 0 0
„ 1862	13,229,009	635,270 0 0
Total in five years, 1853–57	31,592,636	1,618,601 0 0
„ 1858–62	55,396,711	2,737,455 0 0
Average of five years, 1853–57	6,318,527	323,720 0 0
„ 1858–62	11,079,342	547,491 0 0

During the past three years wool has been shipped from each of the following ports in the proportions stated :—

——	1860.	1861.	1862.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
From Port Adelaide - - -	5,699,200	6,662,020	7,162,032
Port Wakefield - -	1,908,800	2,285,269	2,041,550
Port Robe - - -	1,549,540	876,660	1,758,980
Port Augusta - -	2,573,831	3,335,442	2,180,354
Port MacDonnell - -	—	5,000	42,593
Port Wallaroo - -	—	—	43,500
Total Export of Wool -	11,731,371	13,164,391	13,229,009

At the new ports, MacDonnell and Wallaroo, 42,593 lbs. and 43,500 lbs. of wool were laden. The quantity shipped to Great Britain by way of Melbourne during the year was 483,093 lbs.; the remainder going direct.

Minerals.

Mineral produce has been shipped from South Australia during the last ten years of the value of 3,524,641*l.* During the first half of that period 1,294,013*l.*, and 2,230,628*l.*, or nearly double the amount, during the latter. In 1862 the exports reached to 547,619*l.*, greater than in any preceding year, and 95,447*l.* more than in that previous.

The following table gives the quantities of mineral produce exported in quinquennial periods, with the average yearly shipments :—

Periods.	Copper.	Lead.	Copper Ore.	Lead Ore.	Regulus.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Total in five years, 1853–57 - - -	146,550	34	28,557	1,646	245
„ 1858–62 - - -	316,889	4,767	35,133	1,295	1,441
Average of five years, 1853–57 - -	29,310	7	5,711	329	49
„ 1858–62 - - -	63,378	953	7,026	259	288

Last year, 85,872 cwt. of fine copper were shipped, against 61,047 cwt. in 1861. Of the former, 26,005 cwt. were sent to Great Britain; 31,382 cwt. to Melbourne, for transhipment; and 28,145 cwt. to India. The greater part of the ore being now smelted in the Colony, the export of the crude mineral last year was only 6,216 tons, against 7,817 tons the year before. This quantity went forward to England direct and by way of Melbourne in about equal proportions. Of lead, only 426 cwt. were shipped, against 1,256 cwt. in 1861; but an increase appears under the head of lead ore and of regulus; of the latter, 418 tons were exported.

Miscellaneous.

Various manufactures and raw materials, the produce of South Australia, to the value of half a million sterling, have been shipped during the past decade; in 1862, 104,357*l.*, or double the value in 1861, were exported,—consisting, amongst others, of the following items, viz.: drays and agricultural implements 1,495*l.*; horses 536 value 11,095*l.*; sheep (6,369) 7,838*l.*; leather 2,297 cwt. 10,073*l.*; tallow 1,031*l.*; bark 2,866*l.*; gum 1,628 cwt. 1,215*l.*; hides, skins, bones, and hoofs, 2,142*l.*; bacon and hams 324 cwt., and 3,515 cwt. butter, value 19,316*l.*; eggs 5,985*l.*; hay 9,130*l.*; fruit 8,766*l.*; onions 870 cwt. 453*l.*; and of wine 20,574 gallons, declared at 6,777*l.* value. These articles show a considerable increase on the shipments of former years, and in the aggregate make up an important addition to the amount of exports the produce of the Colony.

River Murray Trade.

With settlers on the Victoria side of the river but little trade was effected during 1862, viâ the Murray, they taking only 2,020*l.* worth of goods, against 9,512*l.* in 1861, and having ceased to export wool by the river. The shipments to New South Wales increased from 44,107*l.* in 1861 to 60,822*l.*; receiving in return 52,927*l.*, principally wool (2,394 bales), against 119,647 the year before.

Insolvencies.

Although last year the number of insolvencies (168) was 62 more than in 1861, the deficiency (68,970*l.*) shown in the insolvents schedules was only 5,209*l.* greater, owing to most of the petitioners for relief being small farmers. 91 fiats were issued on the petition of debtors at large; 64 on petition

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

of imprisoned debtors, of whom 52 applied in formâ pauperis, and only 10 on petition of creditors. In addition, six private arrangements by deed, of which the official assignee had notice, were made during the year. The total amount of liabilities was 145,788, and of assets 76,818*l.*, as declared in the insolvents' schedules.

Lands—Crown.

During 1862 the extent of land sold by the Crown was 129,910 acres, against 147,354 acres in 1861. Of these, 85,636 acres were country sections, realizing at public auction 1*l.* 3*s.* 5½*d.* per acre, in 882 lots; 7,280 acres in 68 special country lots, at an average of 1*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* per acre; and 104 acres town lands, realizing 27*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* per acre. In addition to the above, 36,890 acres of country land that had previously passed the hammer were bought privately, at an average rate of 1*l.* per acre. The total area of land alienated to the 31st December 1862 was 2,510,623 acres. The land sales altogether amounted to 148,695*l.* against 183,352*l.*, in the previous year.

With reference to the extent of land leased by the Crown for depasturage purposes, 37,224 square miles have been granted on fourteen years leases, of which 7,054 square miles have been resumed by the Government, leaving, at the close of 1862, 30,170 square miles in occupation under this tenure; many thousand square miles of country, however, are held under claims for leases yet to be issued. 110 annual leases with right of renewal, comprising 3,587 square miles, were issued, making the total of leased depasturage, 33,757 square miles. The total rent received at the Treasury during the year for pastoral leases, together with the assessment on stock running thereon, amounted to 77,049*l.*, and the sum of 3,078*l.* was paid for depasturage of stock on waste lands within hundreds.

Applications for mineral leases numbered 237, against the unprecedented number of 1,002 in 1861; most of the latter, however, were not proceeded with. 218 leases are now current, including 16,096 acres of land, six leases for 445 acres having been cancelled. Last year, 250 applications were forfeited after expiry of right of search. The usual returns are given of the number of depasturage certificates, timber, gold, and quarrying licences issued, and the rent derived from aboriginal reserves; also, a statement of the total amount received at the Treasury during the last ten years for the sale and occupation of the waste lands, by which it appears the amount derived from this source in 1862 nearly reach a quarter of a million sterling.

Litigation.

Under this head the information afforded gives those interested an opportunity of ascertaining the effect of the late extension of the jurisdiction of the Local Courts. The number of writs issued in the Supreme Courts was 1,011, against 1,120 in 1861; the records entered for trial 67, or 36 less than in the previous year. 41 bills, claims, and petitions in equity were heard; 54 probates, for 175,074*l.* of property, were sworn to, against 47, for 67,447*l.*, and letters of administration to the number of 44, against 37 in 1861, were issued, representing 42,770*l.* and 36,640*l.* respectively. 12 divorce and matrimonial causes were heard, and three appeals from the Insolvency and 16 from the Local Courts were entertained. From the tabular statements of the number of cases heard in the Local Courts during the past three years, of which the following is an abstract, it will be seen that litigation has been much increased by the facilities afforded under the new Act:—

	1860.	1861.	1862.
Summonses issued - - - No.	7,231	5,839	8,099
Amount of claim - - - £	50,106	39,747	80,953
Judgments obtained - - - „	18,358	14,413	25,231

As a large number of cases were settled out of court, after the issue of the summons, and before being called on for hearing, the whole amount recovered through the agency of these courts is not fully represented by the figures set forth in the third line of the preceding table.

Loans for Public Works.

The public debt of South Australia, incurred for the formation of railways, waterworks, and harbour improvements, all now completed, amounted at the close of 1862 to 853,300*l.*

Since the first issue, in 1854, bonds representing the sum of 1,005,900*l.* have been issued, of which 152,600*l.* were redeemed up to date of the return.

The amount expended on the above-mentioned public works is 1,015,149*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, against which the amount of loan now outstanding is 853,300*l.* as before stated.

Meteorological.

In addition to very full meteorological observations supplied by C. Todd, Esq., Observer, &c., the following abstract, showing the rain-fall at Adelaide during each month of the last 24 years, has been obligingly furnished by G. S. Kingston, Esq., M.P., who has recorded this valuable information since the foundation of the Colony:—

YEARS.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total for the Year.	Average Annual Fall, as shown by preceding Observations.
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
1839	0·453	0·446	0·85	0·379	0·245	3·497*	2·128	4·767*	0·85	2·57*	3·31*	0·345	19·84	—
1840	0·335	2·01*	0·437	1·202	1·487	3·247*	1·9	2·939*	4·64*	1·9*	0·19	3·82*	24·107*	21·973
1841	0·45	0·35	0·81	3·57*	1·71	2·32	0·758	2·823	2·045	0·94	0·47	1·71*	17·956	20·634
1842	0·37	0·71	1·015*	1·803	2·05	2·401	2·09	2·77	1·931	2·633*	1·19	1·35*	20·318	20·555
1843	0·21	0·54	0·59	1·06	2·98*	1·72	3·307*	2·16	1·085	1·64*	0·2	1·7*	17·192	19·883
1844	0·41	0·175	0·74	1·68	1·845	1·138	3·655*	2·115	2·34*	1·045	0·91	0·825	16·878	19·382
1845	0·134	0·32	0·28	0·53	2·63	3·695*	2·215	3·266*	1·95	1·165	1·28	1·335*	18·83	19·303
1846	0·14	2·32*	0·675	2·5*	3·58*	1·97	3·78*	2·64	2·59	2·235*	2·95*	1·505*	26·885*	20·251
1847	0·17	0·03	1·608*	3·5*	2·37	7·8*	4·49*	1·77	2·335*	0·655	1·185	1·7*	27·613*	21·068
1848	0·00	0·0	0·965*	0·75	2·23	1·32	2·48	2·85	3·19*	2·88*	2·415*	0·655	19·735	20·935
1849	0·00	0·285	0·61	2·29*	1·835	7·21*	4·03*	3·511*	2·423*	0·79	1·96	0·5	25·444*	21·345
1850	4·00*	0·13	0·25	0·9	1·74	3·54*	1·09	1·27	2·154	0·72	1·795	1·685*	19·274	21·173
1851	0·123	0·15	0·952*	1·52	6·34*	3·34*	5·04*	5·36*	2·808*	1·2	3·55*	0·25	30·633*	21·9
1852	1·5	0·4	0·03	2·17	2·97	3·06	4·33*	6·24*	2·04	1·57	1·92	1·11	27·34*	22·239
1853	0·405	0·675	0·328	6·78*	4·468*	2·67	2·403	2·495	3·453*	2·073*	0·42	0·82	26·995*	22·6
1854	0·103	0·03	1·05*	2·815*	1·525	1·158	2·556	2·548	0·711	1·737	0·598	0·515	15·346	22·149
1855	0·04	1·28*	3·12*	1·1	3·093*	2·545	3·33*	1·876	3·413*	1·733	0·575	1·045	23·145*	22·208
1856	0·875*	2·5*	0·598	3·655*	2·645	6·223*	1·573	1·868	1·655	2·475*	0·55	0·304	24·921*	22·358
1857	0·49	0·78	3·825*	1·247	0·704	4·505*	1·86	3·315	0·99	2·1*	1·315	1·025	21·156	22·295
1858	0·86*	2·67*	0·23	1·33	4·145*	1·06	3·02*	1·683	2·016	0·635	2·165*	1·708*	21·522	22·256
1859	0·34	1·16*	0·0	0·735	4·67*	2·075	0·75	1·733	0·671	1·455	0·753	0·51	14·842	21·903
1860	0·175	0·0	2·105*	4·405*	2·456	3·628*	1·403	0·765	1·662	1·445	0·873	0·748	19·67	21·804
1861	0·49	0·58	1·46*	2·005*	4·253*	1·941	4·163*	1·168	2·43*	1·825*	0·583	4·235*	25·133*	21·955
1862	0·275	0·78	0·39	1·611	5·15*	1·81	5·405*	3·338*	1·755	1·165	0·759	0·155	22·593*	21·981
Average of 21 years (1839 to 1859, both inclusive)	0·543	0·808	0·903	1·977	2·631	3·166	2·706	2·857	2·156	1·626	1·414	1·163	—	21·903

* Shows when the fall of the month and year is above the average.

The above statement shows that the yearly fall of rain has varied between 30·633 inches in 1851 and 14·842 in 1859, or a difference of rather more than 50 per cent. between the highest and lowest. The average monthly and yearly rain-fall as deduced from 21 years (1839 to 1859 inclusive) observations are also given. Taking the average in septennial periods ending 1845, 1852, and 1859 respectively, the rain-fall of the middle septennial period, 25·275 inches, was greatly in excess of both the others, while the latter is also in excess of the first period. The average annual fall during the first seven years was 19·303 inches, during the second 25·275 inches, and during the last 21·132 inches respectively.

Population.

Since the census taken in April 1861, when 126,830 persons were enumerated, the population tables have been made up from the registry of births and deaths, and from lists of arrivals and departures by sea, corrected by returns from the neighbouring Colonies. No record is kept of the number of persons crossing the frontier.

The following abstract shows the estimated population on the 31st December 1862 :—

	Males.	Females.	Persons.
Population on 1st January 1862	67,254	63,373	130,627
Increase of population by excess of immigration over emigration (by sea), to 31st December 1862	304	241	545
Increase by excess of births over deaths up to 31st December 1862	2,050	2,107	4,157
Total on 31st December 1862	69,608	65,721	135,329
Increase in 1862	2,354	2,348	4,702

In addition to the above, 300 Chinese disembarked at Port Robe, and proceeded immediately overland to Victoria.

Postal.

Very great facilities are afforded to the public in the way of internal postal communication, considering the thinly peopled and extensive area of the outlying districts. 17 additional post offices were opened during the year, and the length of the mail routes extended from 2,295 to 2,571 miles.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The distance travelled by mails is a better criterion of the expansion of the postal system, having increased from 478,426 miles to 553,890 miles during the 12 months. The following figures show considerable increases:—

——	1861.	1862.
Number of letters - - - -	1,540,472	1,640,153
Number of newspapers - - -	1,089,424	1,136,023
Income - - - - £	16,496	17,448
Expenditure - - - - „	16,423	18,582

The extension of the money order system in connexion with the post office and telegraph departments, to Great Britain and the neighbouring Australian Colonies, will be attended with great benefits to the industrial classes in the safe transmission of small amounts; nearly every town of importance in this, and the adjoining provinces being in correspondence under this system.

Public Worship.

Under this head will be found the statistical information supplied by the several religious denominations. During 1862 additional accommodation was largely provided by the erection of 36 places of worship containing 7,881 sittings. The rapid increase of late years is exhibited in the following figures, showing that three-fifths of the whole population can now be accommodated with sittings at the same time. With but few exceptions, in the early days of the Colony, this result has been arrived at by the unaided voluntary efforts of the colonists:—

——	1860.	1861.	1862.
Number of churches or chapels - -	343	374	410
„ sittings in ditto - -	57,735	65,056	72,816
„ rooms, used, &c. - -	184	172	172
„ sittings in ditto - - -	6,215	5,679	5,800
Total number of places of worship - -	527	546	582
„ sittings provided - -	63,950	70,735	78,616

Of 410 churches and chapels, 359 have Sunday schools connected, at which 20,705 scholars attended, or more than half of the children in the Colony of the ages of from 5 to 15 years. The number of teachers is 2,840, 1,348 males and 1,492 females, or one teacher for every eight scholars nearly. The progress made during the last three years is as follows:—

——	1860.	1861.	1862.
Sunday schools - - - -	283	318	359
„ teachers - - -	2,297	2,536	2,840
„ scholars - - -	16,319	18,327	20,705

In 1862 many schoolhouses were enlarged, ministers' residences erected, and several handsome edifices constructed for public worship, showing marked activity in this respect amonst the leading denominations.

Railways.

The return showing the amount of traffic on the South Australian Railways—the whole length projected, 57 miles, being in operation,—and the receipts and expenditure connected therewith since the inauguration of the system in April 1856, affords a variety of particulars relating to the progress and working of this national undertaking. The result of the past two years operations for the whole line is shown in the following abstract:—

	1861.	1862.	1861.	1862.
			£	£
REVENUE—				
Number of passengers	306,140	289,308	—	—
Passenger receipts	—	—	25,168	24,738
Tons of goods	187,762	197,247	—	—
Goods receipts	—	—	44,767	65,334
Other receipts	—	—	2,266	4,482
Total revenue	—	—	72,203	94,555
EXPENDITURE—				
Management	—	—	1,466	1,559
Locomotive department	—	—	17,218	19,273
Maintenance of line	—	—	18,085	16,762
Other working expenses	—	—	24,247	41,846
Total expenses	—	—	61,016	79,405

The item, under the head of expenditure, "other working expenses," includes large payments for the goods traffic agency, paid for out of the year's gross income, and included in the revenue side under "goods receipts;" but this method of stating the account was only adopted during the latter half of 1861, so that a comparison is impracticable. The inspector of railways, however, in a report laid before Parliament, has furnished the subjoined table, from which a comparison may be drawn, the income and expenses being reduced to one basis.

Years.	Miles open.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			Per-centage of Expenditure.	Profits.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1856	7½	15,873	0	0	15,236	0	0	95·4	637	0	0
1857	24½	39,528	0	0	37,774	0	0	92·0	1,754	0	0
1858	32½	51,582	0	0	44,291	0	0	85·5	6,601	0	0
1859	32½	48,068	0	0	39,871	0	0	82·5	8,197	0	0
1860	45	55,588	0	0	43,636	0	0	78·5	11,952	0	0
1861	57	64,935	0	0	53,808	0	0	82·1	11,127	0	0
1862	57	67,483	0	0	54,400	0	0	80·7	13,083	0	0

Revenue and Expenditure.

During the past ten years the total revenue collected by the Government has amounted to the sum of 5,051,627*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*; the ordinary revenue contributing 2,422,153*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*, and the land fund 2,629,473*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*; the total expenditure during the same period having amounted to 5,174,546*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* Some misconception existing as to whether the capital of the Colony, as represented by the receipts accruing from the disposal and leasing of the waste lands, has been devoted intact to the purposes for which it was originally intended, viz., the prosecution of public works, and the promotion of immigration, it is desirable to show the expenditure for those objects, during that period, as follows:

	£	s.	d.
To defray the cost of public works	1,601,823	3	2
„ Interest and redemption of loans for public works	414,219	8	0
„ Immigration	760,359	1	2
Total expenditure on public works and immigration	2,776,401	12	4
Amount of land fund receipts	2,629,473	10	3
Deficiency of land fund	146,928	2	1

Showing, that the whole of the capital raised by the sale and occupation of the waste lands, and six per cent. of the ordinary income of the Colony besides, has been appropriated to the improvement of the public property, and to the introduction of labour, leaving the sum of 2,275,225*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*, or less than 40*s.* per annum per head of the population, to meet all the ordinary cost of, and the extraordinary expenses incurred by the Government, and likewise to defray the charges of the establishments maintained for the management and disposal of Crown lands, the superintendence of public works, and the immigration departmental expenditure, amounting in the aggregate to a very large sum, but not included in the above statement. The land sales during the period have amounted to 2,236,081*l.* (deducting sums received for compensation on improvements, and repaid), or only four-fifths of the whole expenditure on public works and immigration.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Roads.

Great attention has always been paid in this Colony to the construction and maintenance of the principal lines of internal communication, as well as of means of reaching the sea-board, and facilities for the shipment of produce. During the past ten years the Central Board of Main Roads has expended 718,353*l.*, appropriated from the revenue; the extent of main lines formed and metalled to the close of 1862 was 236 miles, 202 miles having been completed since 1853. District roads have also been made and improved to a great extent by the local municipalities and councils, those bodies having expended, since 1855, the sum of 364,299*l.* on public works, the rates being supplemented from the general revenue for that purpose. In addition to these facilities, 13 jetties have been erected by the Government at outports, at a total cost of over 107,000*l.*, including expenditure on approaches, harbour improvements, moorings, &c.

Shipping.

The number of vessels entered at South Australian ports in 1862 was less than in 1861, but the aggregate tonnage was greater. The shipping cleared exceeded both in number and tonnage those of the previous year.

The total number of vessels arriving and departing, and the aggregate tonnage in the two years, was as follows:—

	1861.		1862.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
ARRIVALS—				
Great Britain	49	25,255	49	29,744
British Possessions	334	70,858	308	66,779
Foreign States	18	7,083	17	8,708
Total	401	103,196	374	105,231
DEPARTURES—				
Great Britain	21	11,268	33	18,695
British Possessions	355	79,857	346	85,818
Foreign States	11	5,010	13	6,787
Total	387	96,135	392	111,290

Beyond the increase in the departures direct for Great Britain, there is little to note, further than that the number of vessels employed in the Victorian trade has decreased, whilst the shipping engaged in that with New South Wales have very much increased.

Telegraphs.

112 miles of wire were erected during this year, making 709 miles of line opened, and 1,026½ miles of line erected, at a total cost of 64,821*l.* Six additional stations were also opened during the year, making a total of 33 offices. 76,725 messages were transmitted, or only 16 more than in 1861, a decrease occurring on the short line connecting the port with the city; the receipts, however, amounted to 8,047*l.*, against 7,382*l.*, an increase of 665*l.* on the previous year. The neighbouring Colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland are connected with South Australia by a chain of telegraph-wire, nearly 4,000 miles in extent, thereby affording those Colonies, and also Tasmania and New Zealand, the earliest and latest telegraphic communication at present possible with Europe and the East. Under the present ocean postal arrangements, South Australia, by providing a branch service to King George's Sound, at a cost to the Province of some 15,000*l.* per annum, places the adjoining Colonies in possession of European intelligence 48 hours before the mail steamer can reach Melbourne.

Agriculture and Live Stock.

My customary annual report on the statistics relating to agriculture and live stock, published in May last, affords full information on that subject; but as this volume has a larger circulation, it is desirable that the summary tables be appended to these statistics, and the following extracts from the report are reproduced, as exhibiting the principal points connected with the subject of general interest.

"The area of country and suburban land sold by the Crown, during the twelve months ended December 1862, amounted to 129,803 acres, making a total of 2,508,851 acres alienated to that date, or 18·6 acres per head of the population, an increase of not quite half an acre per head over 1861. The above forms but one-seventh of the total area of the proclaimed counties, 17,518,720 acres, out of which large areas of arable land may be selected, at present more profitably devoted to sheep pasturage. The enclosure of land has been extensive during the past season; 231,050 acres being added to the fenced land, making a present total of 2,105,877 acres. Enclosed pasture land is returned at 1,611,366 acres, an increase of 223,206 acres, or sixteen per cent. on the previous year. Land under

tillage in 1862–3 amounted to 494,511 acres, or 7,844 acres more than in the previous season. This is equal to 3·65 acres to each individual of the population. Twenty per cent. of the purchased land is under crop, against nineteen per cent. in 1861; it would appear, therefore, that the sales of Crown land do not more than keep pace with the requirements of agriculture, a large portion of the land purchased during the past few years having remained under pasture. No less than 320,160 acres, or sixty-five per cent. of the total area of land in cultivation in 1862–3, was under wheat, against 310,636 acres, or sixty-four per cent., in the previous season. The increase in the acreage under wheat is 9,524 acres, or only three per cent. The wheat harvest produced 3,841,824 bushels, against 3,410,756 bushels in the previous season; an increase of 431,068 bushels, or over 12½ per cent. Of this quantity 1,177,493 bushels were reaped off 98,688 acres in the county of Light, and 1,140,679 bushels were taken off 95,902 acres in the county of Adelaide, the two largest wheat-growing districts. The average yield per acre of wheat was 12 bushels, against 10 bushels 59 lbs. in the previous season. Whilst, however, the average for the Province gives 1 bushel and 1 lb. per acre more than last year, some of the districts in which this cereal is chiefly grown show a still larger yield, as in county Sturt the average yield is two bushels more than that of last season, and in county Adelaide 1½ bushels.

"An important feature in these returns is the great increase in the cultivation of the vine, and in the manufacture of wine. Although the latter will not for some years bear due proportion to the area of our vineyards and the number of vines planted, owing to the circumstance that only the old established vineyards produce anything like a fair yield per acre, sufficient is shown to prove that the wine of this province will become, at no distant date, one of our greatest staples. The quantity shipped last year was over 20,000 gallons, or sevenfold that of any previous year. It appears probable that the home and export demand for South Australian wines will for some time be far in excess of our power of production. The total acreage under vines is returned as 4,777 acres, against 3,918 acres last season, or an increase of 859 acres, or 25 per cent. A like increase of one-fourth appears in the number of vines, those in bearing now numbering 2,929,756, and 2,920,941 not in bearing; of the former, the increase during the year is 568,182, and of the latter 534,800 plants. A very large increase appears in the quantity of wine made, the returns showing 472,797 gallons, against 312,021 gallons; an excess of 160,776 gallons, or nearly 50 per cent. on the quantity produced in the preceding season. The collectors state that improved appliances are becoming more general, and greater attention paid to produce a superior quality of wine, the demand for which is, however, such as to prevent the retention of any large quantity in the cellars for a period sufficiently long to ensure its maturity. The number of wine presses is returned at 140, an increase of 11. Up to this date 43 licences for permission to use a still for the purpose of distilling the fermented juice of the grape have been issued. An increased quantity of grapes sold, or otherwise disposed of, except in wine making, is returned, the figures being 26,551 cwts. and 23,229 cwts. respectively. As stated last year, it is probable that a large portion of the grapes sold were purchased by winemakers possessed of better appliances for wine making than the small vine growers; still the shipment of this fruit to the neighbouring Colonies in the season is considerable.

"The number of horses is stated at 56,251, against 52,597 in the previous year; an increase of 3,654, chiefly in the counties, where horses are displacing bullocks on farms. The number of South Australian horses shipped to India and other ports during the past four years has exceeded 500 annually. Some difficulty is experienced in obtaining a correct return of the cattle in counties, owing to the apprehension that the information may be used in connexion with the granting of depasturage licences; for which, however, there is no ground, as the strictest secrecy is enjoined upon the collectors, and which I believe to be faithfully observed. The number stated to be depasturing in counties is 178,537, against 193,554; the total in the Province being 258,342, against 265,434 last year, a decrease of 7,092 head. A considerable increase appears in the number of sheep, which, together with the lambs, make a total of 3,431,000 against 3,038,356 last season, or an addition of 392,644 or 12½ per cent. This description of stock is now being placed on the more northern runs, 27,490 being returned as depasturing in the country north of Mount Serle. The number returned in the South-eastern District is 905,742, against 778,156 last year; a large proportion of these are depastured on purchased and enclosed land. In the Port Lincoln District, the number of sheep have increased from 310,745 to 353,895. The increase in the counties has been great, owing to the introduction of sheep upon farms, now much practised, and it is reported with the best results."

Conclusion.

The principal statistical facts relating to the progress of the Colony since its foundation are comprised in the last table of this volume; in itself affording a striking view of the general and substantial advance made by this community during the short space of 26 years, and the foregoing brief remarks, confined to the year under review, and its immediate predecessors, will confirm the opinion that the present sound position of South Australia is one calling for congratulation, and that the future prosperity of this Province promises to be as great as its past development has been rapid.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. BOOTHBY,
Government Statist.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 20.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMPTON to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 27.) Government House, Perth,
MY LORD DUKE, February 20, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1862, with such a Report on the contents, in the accompanying letter from the Colonial Secretary, as to make it unnecessary for me to offer any remarks on the greater part of the subject therein noticed.

2. The statistical returns now transmitted show that the total revenue for the year 1862 amounted to 69,406*l.*, including 2,069*l.* obtained on loan from the Western Australian Bank, and that the actual revenue was, therefore, only 67,337*l.*, the expenditure being 72,267*l.*, and the deficiency 4,930*l.*

3. The deficiency has arisen from adequate provision not having been made by my predecessor to meet the liabilities incurred by him.

4. It is satisfactory to observe that there has been a steady increase in 1862 under the important heads of customs and land revenue, and that, after deducting the bank loan, the revenue for that year exceeds that for 1861 by 67*l.*, notwithstanding a decrease of 3,185*l.* in the amount received on account of land sales during the year 1862, as compared with 1861.

5. The increase in the amount of imports and exports is encouraging, and is likely to be rendered still more so by the introduction of English capital for carrying on mining operations, and by the arrangements in progress for opening out new country.

6. The small amounts of money and labour at my disposal for roads, bridges, and public works in 1862 have been expended principally on the roads near Perth, the works at the new Government House, and in repairing the damages caused by a disastrous flood.

7. I concur generally with the opinions expressed in the Colonial Secretary's letter, but I think he is over sanguine with regard to the extension of the convict system in Western Australia, for although many more convicts could be received for employment on public works, only a limited number can be absorbed when they become eligible for discharge from such works, and extreme caution will be required to prevent the supply of ticket-of-leave men being in excess of the demand.

8. During the greater part of the year 1862 considerable monetary depression has prevailed throughout the Colony, produced chiefly by over speculation, losses caused by an unprecedented flood, and the diminution of a previously lavish Government expenditure. I am glad, however, to be able to report that a recent general improvement in the state of public and private affairs affords good reason to hope that both will soon be established on a sound basis.

I have, &c.
His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. (Signed) J. S. HAMPTON,
&c. &c. &c. Governor.

Encl. in No. 20.

Enclosure in No. 20.

SIR, Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth, February 16, 1863.

HEREWITH I have the honour to enclose, for transmission to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Blue Book for the year 1862, which has been compiled with much care, and which, I believe, with few exceptions, fairly represents the state of the Colony at the present time.

Excess of Expenditure.

1. It is again my duty to record an excess of expenditure over revenue, and a comparison between the years 1860, 1861, and 1862 appears to show a startling alteration in the administration of the Colonial finances.

Comparison of Revenue and Expenditure.

2. In 1860, with (in round numbers) a revenue of 70,000*l.*, there was only an expenditure of 62,000*l.*; in 1861, with a revenue of only 67,000*l.*, there was an expenditure of 81,000*l.*; and in 1862 the revenue was 69,406*l.*, and the expenditure 72,267*l.* During the three years there has been an aggregate expenditure of 8,861*l.* in excess of revenue received.

Explanation of Excess.

3. On your Excellency's arrival in the Colony you entered so fully into the state of the finances that it is unnecessary for me to state the causes of this increased expenditure; it will simply suffice to say that the funds closely hoarded in 1860 were expended with a lavish hand in 1861, in which latter year, as no one better knows than your Excellency, contracts for public works were entered into which absorbed the entire funds for 1862, and a moiety of those for the current year, thus limiting the power hitherto in your hands to completing the works authorized by your predecessor.

Present Financial State of the Colony.

4. It is a real gratification to me to state that the present judicious administration of the public finances, coupled with a revenue steadily progressing under every sound and material head, render it in every way probable that at the close of the current year the Colony will stand untrammelled by a single debt, with a revenue fully equal to its moderate wants, and with fair means at disposal for progress in those public works for which there is so great a demand.

Increase and Decrease.

5. The decrease in the amount received from the sale of land is simply, as compared with the two preceding years, when new land regulations were promulgated, and when large purchases were made by settlers in all parts of the Colony, to secure the land in the immediate neighbourhood of their homesteads, which would otherwise have been thrown open to general competition. This decrease is in a great measure balanced by an increase in receipts from land under lease, which is daily extending. The increased amount of expenditure (2,451*l.*) in the establishments is accounted for by additions to the judicial, police, and educational establishments, and by the payment of 500*l.* of the Governor's salary, heretofore drawn in England; but this and other trifling increases are more than met by decreased expenditure on public works and other services, exclusive of establishments, in all of which strict supervision and economy were used.

Imperial Convict Expenditure.

6. It is to me a matter of regret as well as surprise that the Imperial convict expenditure remains in amount so small and stationary. With means to absorb a large number of convicts, with a fair field for their reformation and advancement in life, with the example of many who have become not only respectable but independent members of society, and with the outcry in England as to where convicts are to be sent, it is difficult to understand why the supply is not more abundant. Employment there is in ample quantity, temptation to relapse into crime is marvellously small, escape is next to an impossibility, and with a desire on the part of the colonists to welcome them, and a still greater desire in England to send them away, I cannot but think it a subject of regret that the powers of the Colony have never been tested as to the numbers that can be received. I believe those in the Colony have little idea of its capabilities as regards absorption of labour, not alone in the public service, but in works of private energy and enterprise.

Public Works.

7. I am unable to note the commencement of any public works of importance during 1862. The funds for this service have been employed in completing contracts entered into in 1861; and although the estimated amount has been exceeded, there is a decrease of above 10,000*l.* on the expenditure of 1861. The new Government House is approaching completion, and it is hoped will be occupied before the close of the present year.

Population.

8. In noting an addition of 1,555 persons to the population, it is satisfactory to observe, that while this has been in some measure attributable to a rather larger arrival of convicts during the year, there has been a greater number of births and marriages than in any preceding year, and a less number of deaths than in 1861 by 29. The deaths during the year have been only at the rate of 1·3 per cent., while the births have averaged 3·6 per cent. of the population.

Education.

9. There is little to note under this head beyond a steady progress in the establishment of new schools in rural districts, and a more general desire on the part of persons in the bush to acquire some means of education for their families. The very scattered and outlying population consequent on the scarcity of good land makes it difficult to induce competent masters to proceed far into the interior, and the cost of public education must be an increasing amount from year to year, as the population extends from place to place.

Imports and Exports.

10. With an increasing population it is only natural that the value of imports should increase in proportion, but it would appear that an over importation of articles must have taken place in 1860, for the value of the imports in that year amounted to within 3,000*l.* of those in 1862, while in 1861 there is a deficiency of 25,000*l.* There is a steady increase in all articles of use and luxury, but there is not that decrease which it is desirable to see in those articles that can and ought to be manufactured and supplied in the Colony. On the other hand, it is very satisfactory to observe the increased value of the exports on every article of colonial produce, with the exception of sandal wood,

on which there is a slight decrease, and I do not think I am too sanguine in hoping that this state of things is daily assuming a better aspect, and that a very few years will place the Colony in that healthy position in which the exports equal or exceed the imports.

Shipping.

11. A glance at the shipping returns would seem to prove that at the Port of Albany there was a greater amount of commerce than at any other port in the Colony; but the large amount of tonnage at that port is caused by the arrival and departures of the Mail Steamers, and of the vessels bringing coal for their service.

Agriculture.

12. I have been particular in impressing upon the resident magistrates the necessity of sending correct returns of the produce and stock in their respective districts; and I have more faith in the returns generally rendered for 1862 than in those of preceding years. These returns show in the aggregate an increased acreage under cultivation, and an increased number of stock of all descriptions. The great extent of land under tillage and pastoral lease warrants belief in these returns; and notwithstanding the bad lambing season in 1860, the amount of wool exported exceeds that of previous years.

For the first time in the annals of the Colony I am able to insert four acres of cotton under crop, and it may reasonably be anticipated that in the Blue Book of 1863 cotton will appear in such a quantity as to warrant its insertion as an "export." That it may be cultivated with profit in more than one district of the Colony I firmly believe, and I hold that the community at large are indebted to the one or two enterprising individuals who are willing to brave the laughter of their fellow colonists, and persevere in its cultivation.

Cotton seed, as you are aware, has been distributed throughout the Colony, but it has been difficult to persuade settlers to plant more than a few seeds by way of experiment, and when they have succeeded with these they appear to have no desire to attempt its growth on a larger scale, but adhere to the every day crops of wheat and barley, and grumble at the return received therefrom.

Mines.

13. It is becoming to be matter of general belief that the future wealth of Western Australia lies in its mineral resources, which are slowly but gradually developing themselves, and are beginning to attract the attention of capitalists from England and the neighbouring colonies. All those whose opinions are worthy of belief speak in very high terms of the mineral indications in the Victoria district, and allude to the district generally as surpassing any part of the known world in the richness of its copper ore. The proximity of the mineral country to the port of embarkation is a great inducement to capitalists, and if a sufficient supply of convicts is sent to keep the price of labour below that in the Eastern Colonies there can be no doubt that enterprise and capital will meet abundant reward, and the vexed question of what is to be done with English convicts be settled for many years to come.

Land.

14. The sale of land in the Colony in proportion to the number of its inhabitants exceeds that in any Colony I am acquainted with. 12,000 acres were sold in 1862, a larger amount in the two preceding years, and with a population of 17,000 persons, the majority of whom hold little or no land; nearly one and a half million acres of land have been alienated in fee, and seven millions of acres are held under lease.

Crime.

15. In a Convict Colony the criminal statistics are generally closely examined, and at a first glance it must be confessed the amount of crime during the year 1862 in proportion to numbers is startling. A closer scrutiny is, however, more cheering.

With a population of some 8,000 adult males, where the bond class, including expirees, outnumber the free, there have been only 26 cases of crime during 1862 of such importance as to be tried before the Supreme Court. Of these cases 22 are of the convict class, and the majority of the crimes for which they were tried were not of a very serious nature. There has been no case of murder during the year. A reference to the return of summary convictions shows a total of 3,513 convictions during the year, one half of the number for drunkenness, and more than one moiety of the remaining half for offences not of a criminal nature.

Of the whole number, 2,473 are confessedly convictions in the convict class, and out of the 1,040 returned as convictions of free men, there are many expirees and conditional-pardon holders, who assert themselves to be (and are truly) free men, and of whom the police do not possess sufficient information to give their exact status. Among this number must also be included all convictions of the Aborigines, which in 1862 were very heavy. I hope in future returns to give the convictions of the native population in a separate form.

With this explanation there would appear to be no reason for alarm at the amount of crime, and it is by no means going beyond the truth to state that life and property are as safe in Western Australia as in any portion of Her Majesty's dominions, or that a person exercising common courtesy of demeanour may travel from one end of the Colony to the other, and meet from the convict population every possible civility and kindness, and not hear any language of an obscene or abusive nature. I would not wish it to be supposed such language is not used, but that a feeling exists that it will not be publicly tolerated, and it is for such reasons kept entirely in the background.

Concluding Remarks.

16. In concluding my Annual Report I can but remark, that, notwithstanding the many drawbacks to the speedy prosperity of the Colony, which can never hope to rival its more fortunate sisters to the eastward of the Australian Continent, there are many points of more hopeful aspect than could have been foreseen but a very few years since. Its progress mainly depends on the extension of the convict system, and I can but again repeat my confident opinion that it is capable of very great extension, and my hope that its powers may be fairly tried.

At the present time all seems working to this end, and there can be no better period to test its working than under the administration of your Excellency, whose great experience and judgment in convict management on a much larger scale elsewhere warrant the certainty that a good account will be rendered of any number of men that may be sent to the Colony.

From the date of your arrival in the Colony to the present time your hands have been tied for want of means and labour; and I cannot conclude my report better than by expressing an earnest hope that both may ere long be available, and that your Excellency may have the gratification of looking back ere the close of your administration on very many works that may have been undertaken during your residence in the Colony, and which may have tended to its progress and prosperity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. P. BARLEE.

NEW ZEALAND.

No. 21.

REPORT of the REGISTRAR GENERAL for 1862.

Registrar General's Office,
Auckland, December 19, 1863.

Sir,

I HAVE now the honour to present the Statistical Tables for 1862, completed in the form in which the preceding six volumes of "Statistics of New Zealand" (commencing from the year 1853) have been issued. As you are aware, a considerable proportion of the information contained in them is already in the hands of the members of the Colonial Legislature, by means of a number of tables which (it having been found impracticable from various causes, of which circumstances leading to unusual delay in the printing were the chief, to have the entire volume ready before the opening of the late session,) I prepared with a view to the convenience of immediate reference during the proceedings of the General Assembly, and which were laid before both Houses at an early period of the session by command of his Excellency. The tables so issued by anticipation are of course included with those which could not then be supplied in the present volume, which is designed, like its predecessors, for more general circulation and more permanent preservation.

In accordance with the plan adopted in previous volumes, I proceed to give here in a very condensed form (though with some explanatory additions) the substance of the information embodied in such of the following tables as relate to matters of most general interest. References in the margin will direct those who are desirous of making themselves acquainted with the details on any special branch of the statistics to the tables in which the required particulars will be found.

Such an estimate of the population of the Colony as it is possible to arrive at in the years in which a census is not taken is given in Table I.* It has been constructed in the way usually regarded as affording tolerably close approximate results; viz., adding to the previously ascertained population the excess of immigration over emigration, and the excess of births over deaths during the year. According to this estimate, the population of New Zealand on the 31st December 1862 (exclusive of the military and their families) was 125,812; viz., 79,680 males, and 46,132 females, being an increase amounting to 23,791; viz., 15,618 males, and 8,173 females. Centesimally, this increase was 24·37 per cent. on males, 21·53 per cent. on females, and 23·31 per cent. on the whole population.

The progress of the population during the respective quarters of the year is compendiously exhibited in the following summary:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
FIRST QUARTER.			
Excess of births over deaths during first quarter - -	275	313	588
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during first quarter - - - - - -	3,019	1,218	4,237
Increase during first quarter - -	3,294	1,531	4,825

* None of the tables attached to the Registrar General's Report are printed.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
SECOND QUARTER.			
Excess of births over deaths during second quarter -	274	315	589
Increase (in number of females) from excess of immigration over emigration during second quarter - -	—	1,091	1,091
	3,568	2,937	6,505
Deduct decrease (in number of males) from excess of emigration over immigration during second quarter* -	1,998	—	1,998
Net increase during six months - -	1,570	2,937	4,507
THIRD QUARTER.			
Excess of births over deaths during third quarter -	371	431	802
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during third quarter - - - - -	6,906	1,456	8,362
Increase during nine months - -	8,847	4,824	13,671
FOURTH QUARTER.			
Excess of births over deaths during fourth quarter -	388	433	821
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during fourth quarter - - - - - -	6,383	2,916	9,299
Total increase during 1862 - -	15,618	8,173	23,791
Population as enumerated in the Census of December 1861, (adding 3,000 males, the estimated number of gold miners in Otago, who could not be included in the Census Returns) - - - - -	64,062	37,959	102,021
Estimated total population on the 31st December 1862 - - -	79,680	46,132	125,812

The proportions in which the total increase in the population of the colony is distributed amongst the several provinces cannot be ascertained with accuracy, for reasons which are stated in a note to Table No. I., being chiefly (1) the fact that the numbers of arrivals and departures between ports in the Colony, officially reported by the emigration officers, do not agree, (the former very considerably exceeding the latter); and (2) the uncertainty as to the amount of over-land migration from one province to another. But as it is desirable to furnish some indication of the probable population of each province at the close of 1862, I have made up an estimate based on a calculation of the migration between the ports in the respective provinces; which, however, assumes to be no more than an approximation to the actual numbers, and indeed in the aggregate necessarily exceeds the estimated total for the whole Colony by the excess of arrivals over departures in the official returns. It is to be remarked however, that Southland is to be excepted from this general statement, a census of that Province taken by the Provincial Government in December 1862 furnishing reliable numbers, of which, of course, I avail myself.†

I subjoin a table which shows the population of the Provinces in December 1862, as thus calculated, in comparison with the population ascertained by the Census of New Zealand in December 1861.

Province.	Population in December 1861 when the last Census of the Colony was taken.			Approximately estimated Population in December 1862.			Numerical Increase or Decrease.			Centesimal Increase or Decrease.		
										On the Numbers of the Sexes respectively.		On the Total Population.
	Males.	Fem.	Total.	Males.	Fem.	Total.	Males.	Fem.	Total.	Males.	Fem.	
Auckland - -	13,494	10,926	24,420	15,155	12,489	27,644	1,661	1,563	3,224	12·30	14·30	13·20
Taranaki - -	1,169	875	2,044	1,226	985	2,211	57	110	167	4·87	12·57	8·17
Wellington - -	6,626	5,940	12,566	7,444	6,199	13,643	818	259	1,077	12·34	4·36	8·57
Hawke's Bay - -	1,667	944	2,611	1,609	999	2,608	58‡	55	3‡	3·41‡	5·82	0·11‡
Nelson - - -	5,337	4,615	9,952	6,146	4,945	11,091	809	330	1,139	15·15	7·15	11·44
Marlborough - -	1,503	796	2,299	1,537	849	2,386	34	53	87	2·26	6·65	3·78
Canterbury - -	8,939	7,101	16,040	11,651	8,781	20,432	2,712	1,680	4,392	30·33	23·65	27·38
Otago - - -	24,161	6,002	30,163	35,419	10,169	45,588	11,258	4,167	15,425	46·59	69·42	51·13
Southland - -	1,107	713	1,820	2,187	1,268	3,455	1,080	555	1,635	97·56	77·84	89·83

* The Dunedin Return for the June Quarter of 1862 shows an Emigration of 3,612 Males to the Australian Colonies against an Immigration of 1,460 Males from those Colonies.

† An abstract of the principal results of the Census of Southland in December 1862 (compiled from the returns published in the Gazette of the province), will be found in Appendix A. and Appendix B. of this volume.

‡ Decrease.

NEW ZEALAND.

According to this calculation, the population of the Northern and the Middle Islands respectively would be, Northern Island, (including the Provinces of Auckland, Taranaki, Wellington, and Hawke's Bay,) males, 25,434; females, 20,672; total, 46,106: Middle Island, (including the Provinces of Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury, Otago, and Southland,) males, 56,940; females, 26,012; total, 82,952.

Immigration and Emigration.

The immigration (over seas) to New Zealand in 1862 amounted to 34,290 souls; viz., males, 25,072 adults, and 1,933 children; females, 5,571 adults, and 1,714 children.

The emigration (over seas) from the Colony during the year amounted to 13,299 souls; viz., males, 12,525 adults, and 170 children; females, 478 adults, and 126 children.

The net excess of immigration over emigration is thus shown to have been 20,991 souls, which was distributed amongst the Provinces in the following proportions: Otago, 14,058; Auckland, 3,277; Canterbury, 2,768; Southland, 517; Nelson, 271; Wellington, 99; and Hawke's Bay, 3.*

A classification of the whole immigration and emigration of the year, according to the countries from which the Immigrants arrived and to which the Emigrants went, shows the following results:—

Immigration.				Emigration.			
——	Males.	Females.	Total.	——	Males.	Females.	Total.
From the United Kingdom -	5,318	3,429	8,747	To the United Kingdom -	238	133	371
„ Australian Colonies -	21,503	3,811	25,314	„ Australian Colonies -	12,127	447	12,574
„ Other British Ports -	95	34	129	„ Other British Ports -	267	11	278
„ Foreign States - -	89	11	100	„ Foreign States - -	63	13	76

It thus appears that the excess of immigration over emigration, viewed in relation to countries, was:—United Kingdom, 8,376; Australian Colonies, 12,740; Foreign States, 24. In the division relating to other British ports, the emigration exceeded the immigration by 149.

The arrivals and departures between the ports of the Colony are shown in a separate table, which is a correct compilation from the returns forwarded by the emigration officers, but (for reasons referred to above, and stated in notes to the table,) the numbers can be regarded as affording, at best, only approximately reliable information.

Births, Deaths and Marriages.

The births registered in New Zealand in 1862 amounted to 4,064; viz., 2,090 males, and 1,974 females, being an increase of 623 (viz., 338 males, and 285 females,) over the number in 1861.

The deaths registered in 1862 were 1,231, viz., 773 males, and 458 females. The number in 1861 was 1,109 (viz., 632 males, and 477 females). Thus it appears that, while the total of deaths showed an increase in 1862 as compared with 1861 amounting to 122, the number of deaths of females in 1862 was actually 19 less than in 1861, the increase being on the deaths of males, which were 141 more in 1862 than in 1861. Of the total in 1862, 497 (viz., 266 males and 231 females,) were children under five years of age. 145 of the deaths (133 males and 12 females) were not occasioned by disease, but by drowning and other external causes.

The excess of births over deaths in 1862 was 2,833; viz., 1,317 males, and 1,516 females. The total excess of births over deaths in eight years included in these tables was 14,690; viz., 7,046 males, and 7,644 females.

The marriages solemnized in New Zealand in 1862 numbered 1,091, being an increase of 213 as compared with 1861. The numbers for the respective Provinces in each year since "The Marriage Act 1854" came into operation, and also the numbers solemnized in each year by officiating ministers of the several religious bodies, and by registrars, will be found in the tables referred to in the margin.

Trade. Interchange.

The tables relating to trade and interchange (as well as the revenue tables) have, as in preceding years, been prepared in the office of the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer and Commissioner of Customs, under the supervision of Mr. R. F. Porter. They include several new tables.

Shipping

Tables VIII. to XIII. inclusive relate to shipping. The first two show the numbers, tonnage, and crews of vessels entered inwards and cleared outwards at the several ports

* Making a total of 20,993, from which is to be deducted two—excess of emigration over immigration at Taranaki.

NEW ZEALAND.

of the Colony during the year, exhibiting a total inwards of 813 vessels of 301,395 tonnage, and a total outwards of 783 vessels, with 288,647 tonnage, being an increase, as compared with 1861, of 217 vessels, with 103,379 tonnage inwards; and of 237 vessels, with 83,297 tonnage outwards.

The next two (which are new tables) show the particulars of vessels, tonnage, and crews, classified with relation to the "Countries whence arrived" and "Countries for which cleared;" and the following two (also new) show the nationality of the vessels, inwards and outwards. From the latter it appears that of the total of 813 vessels inwards 187 were British, with 126,044 tonnage; 496 Colonial, with 109,350 tonnage; 111 American, with 58,304 tonnage; 5 French, with 2,287 tonnage; 12 German, with 3,889 tonnage; and 2 Dutch, with 1,491 tonnage.

Although they occupy a different place in the numerical arrangement, it may be convenient here to refer to the tables relating to registered vessels belonging to ports in New Zealand. The total number in December 1862 was 287 vessels of 10,825 tonnage, against 252 vessels of 9,144 tonnage in 1861. Of the total, 206 vessels with 6,863 tonnage belonged to the port of Auckland.

In the report prefixed to the statistics of 1861 I invited attention to the very encouraging increase in the imports of the Colony during that year, amounting to 945,478*l.*, the total value of imports in 1861 having been 2,493,811*l.* against 1,548,333*l.* in 1860. A much more remarkable advance is, however, presented by the figures for 1862, in which year the total value of imports reached the sum of 4,626,082*l.*, being an increase, as compared with 1861, of no less than 2,132,271*l.* or 85·50 per cent. Taking the imports of the Provinces separately, the centestimal increase in 1862 was, Auckland 37·99; Taranaki, 19·79; Wellington, 36·51; Hawke's Bay, 65·20; Nelson, 31·63; Marlborough, 76·80; Canterbury, 77·10; and Otago (including Southland, which, not having been established as a Province until April 1861, does not appear independently in the summaries until 1862), 151·63. It is thus evident that, although Otago, with its rich gold fields, stands foremost here as in various other branches of the statistical returns, yet all the other Provinces participated more or less largely in the general prosperity indicated by the total increase.

The total value of exports from New Zealand in 1862 was 2,422,734*l.*, against 1,370,247*l.* in 1861, being an increase of 76·81 per cent. The increase was, no doubt, as may be supposed, occasioned to a large extent by the productiveness of the Otago Gold Fields, giving to that Province a centesimal increase of 107·11 on the previous year. Wool, however, (which is the other great export of the Colony financially viewed,) also exhibited a striking increase, the total value of the wool exported in 1862 having been 674,226*l.*, against 523,728*l.* in 1861, being a centesimal increase of 28·73 per cent. on the export of 1862 as compared with that of 1861, which was itself an increase on that of 1860 amounting to 17·85 per cent.

Details of Imports and Exports.

The details of imports and exports at the several ports will be found in Tables XVIII. and XIX.; and the following tables (XX. to XXVIII.) contain comparative summaries, showing, in a compendious form, not only for the immediately preceding year (1861), but also for the previous years since 1853, the totals of the principal articles of export. Separate tables are devoted to gold, grain, kauri gum (an export of the Province of Auckland exclusively), oil, potatoes, timber, and wool respectively. To those who desire to trace in particular branches the progressive advance of New Zealand, these tables will, I trust, furnish interesting information in a convenient shape; while for those who may be content to look only at general totals for the Colony and its several Provinces, Tables XVI. and XVII. furnish views of the total value of imports and exports for the successive years from 1853 to 1862 inclusive. The range of advance will be seen to have been thus:—

	£
Total value of imports in 1853	597,827
„ „ 1862	4,626,082
Total value of exports in 1853	303,282
„ „ 1862	2,422,734

Revenue.

The tables relating to revenue include a considerable variety of information in addition to the particulars embodied in the former volumes of statistics, and add their conclusive testimony to other evidences of the rapid progress of the Colony.

The customs revenue, which in 1861 exceeded that for 1860 by 71,695*l.*, shows for 1862 an advance, as compared with 1861, amounting to 138,573*l.*, or 53·12 per cent., the respective totals being 399,436*l.* in 1862, against 260,863*l.* in 1861.

The total ordinary revenue in 1862 was 508,332*l.*, against 324,146*l.* in 1861. The territorial revenue in 1862 was 606,830, against 347,354*l.* in 1861. The total revenue

in 1862 was 1,115,162, against 671,500*l.* in 1861. The increase in 1862, centesimally calculated, shows 56·82 on ordinary revenue, 74·70 on territorial revenue, and 66·07 on the total revenue in this single year. Table XXXI. will enable the reader to mark the advance to this point during the successive years since 1853, when the general total of the Colonial Revenue was only 149,820*l.*

The following table presents a comparative view of the revenue of the several Provinces in 1861 and 1862, showing the centesimal increase or decrease for each in the latter year:—

REVENUE—1861-62.

Provinces.	Ordinary Revenue.			Territorial Revenue.			Total Ordinary and Territorial.		Centesimal Increase or Decrease,
	1861.	1862.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.	1861.	1862.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.	1861.	1862.	
	£	£		£	£		£	£	£
Auckland	90,836	103,518	13·96	6,856	7,416	8·16	97,692	110,934	13·55
Taranaki	11,296	11,167	– 1·14	—	545	500·45	11,296	11,712	3·68
Wellington	43,280	48,570	12·22	30,085	20,264	–32·64	73,365	68,834	– 6·17
Hawke's Bay	10,784	11,541	7·01	38,055	28,814	–24·28	48,839	40,355	–17·37
Nelson	27,232	31,257	14·78	29,305	65,877	12·47	56,537	97,134	71·80
Marlborough	2,801	4,203	50·05	15,804	17,010	7·63	18,605	21,213	14·01
Canterbury	47,014	71,058	51·14	98,434	223,514	127·06	145,448	294,572	102·52
Otago (including Southland)	90,877	226,846	149·61	128,815	243,390	88·94	219,692	470,236	114·04
Chatham and Stewart's Island	26	172	561·53	—	—	—	26	172	561·53
	324,146	508,332	56·82	347,354	606,830	74·70	671,500	1,115,162	66·07

Income and Expenditure.

The income and expenditure of the General and Provincial Governments during the year ended December 31st, 1862, are shown in a (new) table, the preparation of which has been a work of considerable labour in the Treasury Department.

The two following tables show, in detail, the revenue and the expenditure of the several Provinces in 1862. There also are newly constructed Tables.

The next table shows, in detail, the receipts and disbursements by the receivers of land revenue in the several Provinces during the year ended December 31st, 1862.

An altogether new table shows the funded debt of the General and Provincial Governments on the 31st December 1862, specifying the authority under which the liabilities were respectively incurred; the amounts authorized to be borrowed; the amount of debentures in circulation; the rate of interest; the rate of sinking fund; when the debentures are redeemable; the unexpended balance of amount raised; the amount of sinking fund accrued, and what amount and in what manner invested. It will, of course, be understood in examining this table that it does not profess to give information later than the date specified in its heading, viz., the 31st of December 1862. It should also be understood that the table includes only those Loan Acts under the operation of which money had actually been raised previous to the end of 1862.

Joint Stock Companies.

"An Act for the Incorporation and Regulation of Joint Stock Companies and other "Associations" having been passed by the General Assembly in 1860, a table is introduced containing the names and other particulars relating to the companies registered under this Act, from the commencement of its operation to the end of 1862.

Land Sales.

The series of tables showing the land sales in the Colony from the 1st April 1856 (the earliest date to which the information could be carried with accuracy), which was commenced in the Statistical Volume for 1861, is continued in the present volume. The first table (No. XXXIX.) shows in detail the particulars relating to the waste lands sold or otherwise disposed of, in the several Provinces during the year 1862; the second (No. XL.) contains a summary which shows the totals for each province during the entire period from April 1856 to December 1862; and the third (No. XLI.), classifying the information with respect to time rather than to locality, shows in a similarly compendious summary the totals for the whole Colony during each year of that period.

Prices of Provisions.

A table in the usual form shows the average prices of provisions and live stock in the several Provinces in 1862.

Post Office.

A series of seven tables affords a variety of information relating to the Post Office in 1862, including the numbers of letters and newspapers respectively received at, and despatched from, the several chief post offices in the Colony, and the number of letters despatched to places out of the Colony, specifying the offices from which they were

NEW ZEALAND.

despatched, and the places of their destination. This latter branch of information admits of a comparison with the previous year (which alterations in the form of the returns prevent being made accurately in some other particulars), and the result is strikingly indicative of the increase of correspondence by which the year has been marked. The total of the letters despatched to places out of the Colony in 1861 was 257,374, and in 1862, 421,855.

Postal Revenue.

A further view of progress is afforded by a comparative table of the postal revenue of the several Provinces of New Zealand, for the years 1858 to 1862 inclusive, distinguishing the amounts for each quarter of those years. It will be seen that the total advanced from 6,024*l.* in 1858 to 14,108*l.* in 1861, while an unprecedented advance took place in 1862, in which year the postal revenue reached the sum of 22,710*l.*, being an increase of 60·97 per cent. on the preceding year.

Money Orders.

As the money-order system did not come into operation in New Zealand until the 1st August 1862, the information in relation to it given in this volume only extends over a period of five months, viz., to December 31st in that year. Up to that date the total number of orders issued in the Colony was 1,410, viz., 1,059 on Great Britain; 349 on Victoria; and 2 on places in New Zealand. The respective amounts were:—Orders on Great Britain, 4,716*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*; on Victoria, 1,859*l.* 9*s.*; and on places in New Zealand, 15*l.*; total 6,590*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* The orders paid in the Colony were 160; viz., issued in Great Britain, 102; in Victoria, 56; in New Zealand, 2. The amounts in these cases were, issued in Great Britain, 515*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*; in Victoria, 294*l.* 18*s.*; in New Zealand, 15*l.*; total, 824*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*

Legal and Criminal Statistics.

The legal and criminal statistics occupy a series of 11 tables, which have been prepared substantially in accordance with the plan pursued in previous years, and do not present any features calling for special notice here. They have been compiled from returns including the Supreme Court, the District Courts, and the Resident Magistrates' Courts, distinguishing in the latter class the cases, whether civil or criminal, in which Europeans or Maories, or both, were concerned. The last table in the series (No. LX.) shows the numbers of prisoners, male and female, committed to the gaols in New Zealand during 1862, specifying the causes of imprisonment; in what country the prisoners were born; to what class they belonged; and the degree of their education. The total number committed was 2,692; viz., 2,368 males and 324 females.

Savings Banks.

The table relating to savings banks shows the number of those valuable institutions in New Zealand in 1862; the dates of their establishment; the numbers of depositors; and the amounts deposited and withdrawn during the year; distinguishing the European and Maori depositors.

Education.

In the years in which the Census is taken a large amount of information on the subject of education is, of course, collected, although (as I had occasion to remark in my report on the Census of 1861, as well as in that on the Census of 1858) "the "columns for school attendance were those which in many instances were least satis- "factorily filled up." An effort was made to procure for the present volume, not merely a continuation but an enlargement, with all attainable accuracy, of the information previously acquired. With this view, a series of questions respecting public schools were prepared, and forwarded to the several Provinces. The result, however, has I regret to say, been only very partially successful. Different Provinces have their different systems, their different modes of keeping their records, and their different periods of making up their annual accounts; and delay, difficulty, and ultimate defectivenes characterised many of the returns from the particular localities in which public schools were established. The returns from the Province of Nelson have been received only within a few days, after the middle of this month of December, and when the last pages of these statistics were in the printer's hands, and it would not have been possible to go minutely into new returns without further delaying the issue of this volume. From Canterbury no returns have been received in the form requested; but by the same mail a Provincial Gazette of the 1st instant has come to hand, containing an elaborate report of an Education Commission appointed to inquire into the subject in that Province. I have introduced into Table LXII. as much as could immediately be made available of the information from those Provinces; but it is right to add, that the Canterbury Commissioners, while they express their belief that such statistics as they have embodied in their report are "substantially correct," yet frankly state that "The returns furnished "from the various quarters to which they have applied are so inaccurate, incomplete, "and in many cases contradictory, as to prevent their arriving at more than general "conclusions."

With respect to returns which were received in sufficient time for detailed examination, considerable labour has been devoted in this office to the attempt to compile the par-

ticulars so as to tabulate the results in clear statistical form. For the present, however, I find that no more complete or satisfactory summary than that in Table LXII. can be produced consistently with a due regard to correctness. Even the figures there given are to be received as only the best approximations that could be made, except in the number of public schools in the several Provinces, which may be accepted as reliable, and which were:—In Auckland, 55; Wellington, 13; Hawke's Bay, 2; Nelson, 23; Marlborough, 5; Canterbury, 37; Otago, 21; and Southland, 2. NEW ZEALAND.

The gratifying fact, however, is certain, notwithstanding the incompleteness of the statistical details just now available, that the magnitude of the interests involved in the education of the rising generation is not overlooked or lightly regarded in New Zealand. If to the public schools known to exist were added the numerous private schools, many of them of a high character, in successful operation in various parts of the Colony, and the amount of home-education in progress, there can be no doubt that a total would be arrived at, which, although it would not fully satisfy, yet could not fail to encourage and cheer those who see in the intellectual and moral training of the young an inestimable and indispensable element in the true progress and prosperity of the community. I trust, also, that by the co-operation of the boards of education and others whose sympathy in the object may be anticipated, future endeavours to demonstrate statistically what is really being effected in this great undertaking will be more successful than perhaps could have reasonably been expected in a first attempt to collect detailed and diversified particulars.

The numbers of the population in the Province of Southland, ascertained by a census taken by the Provincial Government in December 1862, have been, as already stated, introduced in the general estimate of the population; but further information relating to the people, their habitations, their condition, and the cultivations and live stock owned by them, have been compiled from the census returns, and are given in the appendix to this volume. The results strikingly exhibit the rapid progress of this young Province; showing an increase in December 1862, as compared with December 1861, of 89·83 per cent. on the population; 60·32 per cent. on the land fenced; 71·33 per cent. on the land under crop; 49·87 per cent. on horses; 25·47 per cent. on horned cattle; and 49·02 per cent. on sheep. Census: Statistics of Southland.

In the report on the statistics of 1861 I stated that meteorological instruments having been recently forwarded by the General Government to the several Provinces, with a view to an extended and uniform system of observation, it might be anticipated that more complete information on this important subject would in future be available. For reasons explained in "Remarks" by Dr. Knight, Director of the Meteorological Stations (Appendix C.), the results of these arrangements appear in only a limited and comparatively imperfect form for 1862. The appendix, however, contains Dr. Knight's interesting "Remarks on the Meteorology of New Zealand, in 1862," and tables showing the results of observations, more or less complete, made at Auckland, New Plymouth, Napier, Wellington, Nelson, and Dunedin. Much fuller and more satisfactory contributions to the Meteorology of New Zealand may, no doubt, be expected from the observations in 1863. Meteorology.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN B. BENNETT,
Registrar-General.

EASTERN COLONIES.

CEYLON.

No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir C. J. MACCARTHY, to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 141.) Queen's House, Colombo, August 20, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book Returns for this Colony for the year 1862.

2. Some delay has ensued in their transmission from the fact of their having been for the first time printed throughout, instead of being forwarded, as hitherto, in manuscript. But I trust that this delay will be fully compensated for by the improved form in which I am thus enabled to submit them to your Grace.

3. I will now proceed to indicate briefly some of the more important results exhibited in these Returns. It is satisfactory to observe that these results demonstrate the continued progress and prosperity of the Colony.

Revenue and Expenditure.

4. The revenue for last year amounted to 759,135*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*, showing an excess of 7,138*l.* 9*s.* 5½*d.* over the revenue of the preceding year (1861), which amounted to 751,997*l.* 1*s.* 5½*d.* The principal items of increase are, 1,332*l.* 18*s.* 7½*d.* under the head of tolls on bridges, ferries, roads, &c., arising from the higher prices obtained in 1862 for the toll-rents; 3,542*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* in the arrack rents, which realized better prices than in the preceding year; 5,179*l.* 19*s.* 2½*d.* in the sale of salt. The increase is chiefly in the North-western Province, and is attributed to a larger demand for salt in 1862 than in 1861. The increase of 2,544*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* under the head of sale of unserviceable stores is owing principally to payments for railway stores received from the late railway company, and sold by Government in the course of the year. The increase appearing under the head of interest is caused chiefly by the payment of the sum of 1,462*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* by the Oriental Bank on account of interest on the amount of export duty funded in the bank.

5. There were on the other hand decreases under several other heads. In land sales there was a decrease of 13,135*l.* in the Western, North-western, Southern, and Eastern Provinces. This was, however, made up to a great extent by the sales effected in the Northern and Central Provinces, leaving a sum of only 2,009*l.* 13*s.* 3½*d.* as the actual decrease. Under the head of land revenue, too, there was a decrease of 4,066*l.* 13*s.* 8½*d.* in the item of paddy, caused by the failure of the crops from drought in the North-western and Southern Provinces. The sum of 2,837*l.* 14*s.* 3¾*d.* appears as the decrease under the head of judicial and blank stamps, which is attributed to the reduction in the rates of stamp duty effected under the Ordinance No. 11. of 1861. Deducting, however, from this the increase in the items of postage stamps (1,131*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*) and composition for stamp duty on bank notes in circulation (685*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*), the actual decrease under the head of stamps was only 1,020*l.* 14*s.* 10¾*d.* There is a decrease of 4,218*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* under the head of commissariat stores, provisions, building materials, caused by a diminution in the quantity of stores, &c. sold to public departments in 1862.

6. The total ordinary expenditure of the year amounted to 626,653*l.* 15*s.* 8½*d.* The excess of revenue over the expenditure of the year was therefore 132,481*l.* 15*s.* 2½*d.* But, in addition to the above sum of 626,653*l.* 15*s.* 8½*d.*, there was a further expenditure under the authority of the Surplus Fund Ordinances of a sum of 3,483*l.* 18*s.* 11¾*d.* making the total expenditure of the year 630,137*l.* 14*s.* 8¼*d.*, and reducing the surplus revenue to 128,997*l.* 16*s.* 2¾*d.* It should also be noted that in the revenue for the year is included the sum of 38,498*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, being proceeds of the duties on exports, which are reserved as a separate fund to meet railway liabilities.

CEYLON

7. As compared with the expenditure of the preceding year, that of 1862 shows a decrease of 8,576*l.* 8*s.* 4¼*d.* The following are the principal items in which the decreases occur:—establishments, 5,544*l.*, caused by savings on the salaries and contingencies of the various public departments; works and buildings, 4,777*l.* 3*s.* 5¼*d*, this decrease was owing to the larger outlay on account of heavy works undertaken in 1861, there having been in that year, as stated in my Despatch No. 105. of the 27th May 1862, an increase of nearly 4,000*l.* on account of works and buildings over the expenditure of 1860); the slight decrease of 1,457*l.* under the head of roads, streets, and bridges consists of small balances on miscellaneous works remaining unexpended at the end of the year, and carried forward to the following one. Under the head of interest there is a decrease of 15,969*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* The debt to the late railway company having been paid up in 1861, no payment on account of interest on that item appears in the accounts of 1862.

8. Under some of the heads there is an increase in the expenditure of 1862 as compared with that of the preceding year. A larger expenditure for provisions and other necessaries for prisoners in the principal gaols caused an increase of 2,599*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* in the item of police and gaols. Owing to the measures adopted by me in the past year, and reported to and approved by your Grace, for the promotion of the immigration of coolies from the continent of India, an increase of 2,342*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* appears under this head, and a sum of 12,030*l.* 12*s.* 11¾*d.* figures under the head of railway liabilities in the returns of last year, whilst there was no expenditure on this account in the year preceding.

Assets and Liabilities.

9. The Auditor-General's return of assets and liabilities shows that on the 1st January 1863 the total amount of the assets at that date was 384,081*l.* 9*s.* 6¼*d.*, and the amount of liabilities 231,620*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, leaving an apparent balance in favour of the Ceylon Government of 152,460*l.* 12*s.* 9¼*d.* The assets include a sum of 68,327*l.* 2*s.* 10½*d.*, being amount of revenue debts outstanding. Of this the large sum of 36,897*l.* 18*s.* 6¾*d.* is considered to be irrecoverable, and will have to be struck off the returns, on authority being obtained from Her Majesty's Government. 3,455*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* are awaiting the decision of courts of law; and there is a prospect of recovering only the sum of 27,973*l.* 10*s.* 2¾*d.* Deducting from the gross balance of 152,460*l.* 12*s.* 9¼*d.* the above sum of 68,327*l.* 2*s.* 10½*d.*, and the further sum of 707*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, amount of surcharges outstanding, which may admit of explanation, and be settled by vouchers, the net balance would be 83,425*l.* 15*s.* 5¾*d.* But the assets also include a sum of 25,596*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*, being amount of export duty funded in the Oriental Bank to meet railway liabilities, which should likewise be deducted, leaving 57,829*l.* 7*s.* 6¾*d.* as the actual surplus balance available for ordinary purposes. This is still considerably larger than the amount of the balance on the 1st January 1862, which was only 15,895*l.* 8*s.* 11¼*d.*

10. The statement of liabilities includes the sum of 100,000*l.*, amount of debentures sold in England to pay the debt to the railway company, which, as remarked in my Despatch No. 105. of the 27th May 1862, will not be payable until after the expiration of seven years from the date of the issue of the debentures, and a further sum of 36,045*l.* for interest on those debentures which will be spread over the remainder of that period.

11. As compared with the liabilities on the 1st January 1862, which amounted to 335,014*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*, there was a decrease in the amount of liabilities on the 1st January of the present year of 103,393*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*

12. The statement of assets shows that the amount of cash in hand in the General Treasury and the several district chests on the 1st January 1863 was 251,351*l.* 8*s.* 4¾*d.* Deducting from this the amount of deposits (74,315*l.* 9*s.* 2¼*d.*), and the Treasury notes still outstanding (925*l.*), the balance in favour of the Government was 176,110*l.* 19*s.* 2½*d.*

Imports and Exports.

13. The Customs returns show that there was increase of 440,261*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* in the value of goods imported in 1862, as compared with 1861, and a decrease of 79,318*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* in the exports, the value being:—

Imports.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1861 - - -	2,292,459	13	0
1862 - - -	2,732,721	11	2

Exports.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1861 - - -	2,284,285	4	7
1862 - - -	2,205,966	16	8

14. The above figures do not, however, include the specie imported and exported, which is as follows:—

Specie imported in 1862.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
United Kingdom - - -	5,000	0	0
India - - - -	857,914	15	2
Mauritius - - -	3,700	0	0
Australia - - -	562,853	1	0
Suez - - - -	47,650	4	4
	1,510,418	0	6

Specie exported in 1862.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
British India - -	286,153	8	6
Maldive Islands - -	2,000	0	0
	288,153	8	6

15. Adding these to the value of goods imported and exported, the total value of the imports and exports of 1862, as compared with those of the preceding year, stands thus:—

Imports.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1861 - - -	3,663,749	17	1
1862 - - -	4,243,139	11	8

Exports.

1861 - - -	2,706,207	2	2
1862 - - -	2,494,120	5	2

16. The increase in the value of imports is caused partly by a considerable increase in the quantity of wine and spirits imported; by the enhanced value of cotton piece goods; but chiefly by an increase in the official value of grain. In 1861 and for some years previously rice was valued at 4*s.* a bushel in the returns; but the real value having been much higher for a considerable time past, the official value of rice was raised 2*s.* and of other grain 1*s.* a bushel for 1862. This accounts for 462,536*l.* of the increase shown. There was, however, a decrease in rice and paddy imported of 19,184 bushels, the quantity imported in 1862 being 4,820,719 bushels, against 4,839,903 bushels in 1861.

17. The diminution in the value of exports is attributable chiefly to a falling off in the quantity of coffee exported in 1862, which was 605,178 cwts., whilst in 1861 it was 648,026 cwts., showing a decrease of 42,848 cwts. There was an increase in cinnamon and cocoanut oil; of the former, 875,475 lbs. were exported in 1862, against 845,218 lbs. in 1861, being an increase of 30,257 lbs. Of cocoa-nut oil, the quantity exported in 1862 was 1,429,531 gallons; in 1861, 1,040,428 gallons; being an increase of 389,103 gallons.

18. The revenue derived from imports and exports in 1862 was 234,077*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*, showing the slight increase of 938*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* over that of the preceding year. Adding to the above sum, the port dues, warehouse rents, &c., viz., 7,532*l.* 6*s.*, the total customs revenue for the year amounted to 241,609*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*

19. I append to this Despatch a return of exports of coffee, cinnamon, cocoa-nut oil, and coir, the produce of the Colony, for the last 10 years; return of the total value of imports and exports (including specie and bullion) in the years 1860, 1861, and 1862; statement of the number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in the same years. The number of vessels entered in 1862 were 2,788; tons 447,481. The number of those cleared were 2,791; tons 441,511. Registered vessels belonging to Ceylon were 407; tons 21,538. Enclosure 1.

Public Works.

20. I forward the following documents required by Her Majesty's Government, in addition to the Return of public works included among the Blue Book Returns.

Estimated expenditure out of surplus funds for 1863.

Analytical statement of progress of public works borne on the budget of 1863.

CEYLON.

Progress of expenditure on Surplus Fund Ordinances from 1857 to 1862, and the estimated expenditure for 1863.

Profit and loss on works undertaken as remunerative from 1857 to 1862.

Enclosure 2.

21. I enclose also copies of Reports by the Civil Engineer and Commissioner of Roads, on the state of the Public Works Department, to which is appended a Report on the progress of expenditure on roads, and receipts from tolls for the year 1862.

22. From the abstract attached to the Blue Book Return it will be seen that the total expenditure on public works during the past year amounted to 150,895*l.* 14*s.* 8½*d.* *viz.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Government money	106,339	6	0½
Commutation money paid in assessment for labour under the Road Ordinance	17,122	15	10½
Private contributions	7,659	16	11¼
Cost of establishment	19,773	15	10¼
	150,895	14	8½

This is exclusive of the expenditure on military works, which are not included in the Returns.

23. The amount expended in opening new roads was 17,197*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, viz.: 12,526*l.* 19*s.* 6¾*d.* Government money, and 4,670*l.* 18*s.* 0¼*d.* private contribution. One of the principal lines of new road undertaken during the past year was that from Palmadulla to Ballangodde in the Western Province. This is a continuation of the line from Colombo through Ratnapoora, round the western and southern base of the central mountain zone of the Island, to Onvah, by the Happooletta Pass. The importance of this communication had been frequently urged on the Government, though, being a work of some magnitude, requiring a large outlay, its commencement had been long deferred. But extensive tracts of Crown land having recently been sold in the Onvah district, and several new coffee estates having been opened in it, the necessity of establishing this communication as the best line for the conveyance of the produce to the port of shipment was again pressed on the Government. After duly considering the representations made, and personally visiting the country through which the road was to run, I felt satisfied that the work was one calculated essentially to develope the resources of the Island, and that the assistance sought for should not longer be withheld. An estimate of 18,644*l.* for this portion of the line was submitted by the Commissioner of Roads, and a vote of 12,000*l.* was granted for it in the Supply Bill for 1862, of which a sum of 8,550*l.* 13*s.* 11¼*d.* was expended during the year.

24. The following are the other new roads opened during the past year, and the amounts expended on them :—

Central Province.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
From Maddool Kelle to Hooloogange in Doombera	3,603	9	4½
Opening a new road, the Pooselawa line, towards the valley of the Poondooloya in Kotmalie	3,556	11	11
Completion of road from Madawelle to Rajawelle in Doombera	611	8	1¾
Do. Ratotte Road in Matelle	273	0	2

Northern Province.

From Kodigamoe to Poottoor	429	19	2
From the Central Road towards Mulletivoe	138	2	1½

25. The amount expended for the upkeep of roads and canals was 65,626*l.* 17*s.* 4¾*d.* of Government money, and 20,111*l.* 13*s.* 11½*d.* of commutation money and private contributions. The expenditure on canals and inland navigation amounted to 4,285*l.* 17*s.* 7¾*d.* The northern canals between Colombo and Putlam have been kept in a state of efficiency, and the traffic on them has increased to a considerable extent. The canal tolls were rented in 1862 for 3,152*l.*, whilst in 1852 they yielded only 293*l.* The average expenditure on metalled roads is stated by the Commissioner of Roads to have been about 106*l.* a mile, the maximum on the Kandy Road about 280*l.*, the minimum on the Galle Road about 55*l.*, and the average cost of all other roads about 24*l.* a mile. The cost of the repair of the road from Colombo to Galle, Matura, Tangalle, and Hambantotte, was 9,499*l.* 10*s.* 6¾*d.*; the receipts from tolls being 7,659*l.* The expenditure on the road from Colombo to Kandy was 20,412*l.* 16*s.* 3½*d.*, whilst the receipts from tolls

amounted to 31,690*l.* The toll rents for the whole Island for 1862 amounted to 58,897*l.* 5*s*, against 55,086*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* in 1861.

26. The extraordinary and I believe quite unprecedented rainfall of the year 1862 tried very severely the principal roads in the Island. The Commissioner of Roads states that "from the 1st July to the 31st December there were 161 days of rain, and only "23 without it; that in consequence of this, disease broke out amongst the draft cattle; "transport became scarce and very dear, and under the temptation of high rates almost "every cart seen upon the roads was so overloaded, and the animals could progress with "such difficulty, that in their efforts to move forward they yawed from side to side, the "narrow overweighted wheels working into the road surface." Under these circumstances it is not to be wondered at that the roads suffered severely; but every effort has been and is now being made to put them into good order.

27. The sum expended for new bridges was 4,730*l.* 19*s.* 1½*d.* Of these, the principal were an iron trellis bridge on the Galle road at Dodandowe, which cost 1,313*l.* 15*s.*, and a bridge of the same description over a mountain stream in Doombera cost 1,597*l.* 16*s.* 7¼*d.* The repair of bridges cost 4,334*l.* 5*s.* 7½*d.*

28. The expenditure on new buildings was 5,041*l.* 19*s.* 10¾*d.* The following were the most important of the buildings in progress last year:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The new civil hospital at Colombo - - - -	1,821	15	0
Singhalese Church, Hulfsdorp - - - - -	242	3	3¼
A new house, &c. for the Assistant Government Agent, Putlam	690	0	0
The lighthouses at Foul Point and Round Island - -	844	3	8½
A cutcherry at Matelle - - - - -	443	0	0

29. The amount expended on the repair of existing buildings was 8,367*l.* 19*s.* 11*d*; on drains, ferry boats, and general service, 1,855*l.* 2*s.* 1½*d.* Miscellaneous services amounted to 3,855*l.* 2*s.* 4¾*d.* The principal items under this head were the working of the factory, 500*l.*; purchase of tools, 2,000*l.*; the erection of a 20-ton crane at the Export Wharf, Colombo, 700*l.*; irrigation works at Kirime and Oorobokke, 685*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*; and upkeep of irrigation works at Batticaloa, 240*l.* 18*s.*

Government Houses at Colombo and Kandy.

30. The reports of the Civil Engineer on the state of the Queen's House at Colombo and the Pavilion at Kandy show that both these buildings are in fair order. The Pavilion required certain repairs, which were undertaken last year, and were completed in the beginning of this year. From the report of the Deputy Commissary General on the public furniture of the Queen's Houses at Colombo and Galle, and the Pavilion at Kandy, it will be seen that the furniture has been maintained in good order and condition.

Surveying Department.

31. I enclose an interesting Report by the Surveyor General on the operations of his department during the past year. The results shown by him in regard to the sale of Crown lands appear to be very satisfactory. The total extent of land sold in the whole Island was 15,794 acres, which realized a sum of 35,173*l.*, giving an average of 2*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* per acre. Of this sum, 23,238*l.* were received in the Central Province, where 9,545 acres were disposed of, the average price being 2*l.* 8*s.* per acre; whereas in former years the average price has been about 1*l.* 8*s.* per acre. In the Western Province, 3,778 acres were sold for 6,217*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 13*s.* per acre. The highest rate has been obtained in the Southern Province, where 241 acres were sold for 2,876*l.*, or nearly 12*l.* an acre. Of these 96 acres were sold in the Girraway Pattoo for 2,062*l.*, or 21*l.* an acre, and some lots realized from 40*l.* to 50*l.* an acre. These high rates are ascribed to the irrigation works recently constructed in that district, which hold out a certainty of annual cultivation, by making it independent of the periodical rains. In the other Provinces the sales have not been extensive. The results are as follows:

Enclosure 3.

Eastern Province:—915 acres sold for 1,023*l.*, or 1*l.* 2*s.* per acre.

North-western Province:—1,169 acres sold for 1,453*l.*, or 1*l.* 4*s.* per acre.

Northern Province:—143 acres sold for 364*l.*, or 2*l.* 10*s.* per acre.

32. In addition to these, lands to a large extent were disposed of in the various Provinces, as encroachments, lands granted at half valuation, or wholly relinquished to claimants after 30 years' possession, &c.; the quantity thus granted being 9,508 acres, and the amount realized 4,722*l.* The total quantity of land sold and otherwise disposed of during the year was 25,302 acres, and the total receipts 39,895*l.* The fees received by the department amounted to 5,405*l.* The cost of the Surveyor General's establish-

CEYLON.

ment was 17,883*l.* Against this expenditure the Surveyor General places the aggregate receipts both from sales and fees, amounting to 45,300*l.*, and shows a balance in favour of the department of 27,417*l.* But this is a method of calculation the correctness of which I cannot admit, I do not think that the receipts from the sales of land can properly be placed to the credit of the Surveyor General's Department.

Electric Telegraph.

33. No report has hitherto been furnished in the Blue Book Despatches on the working of the telegraph in Ceylon, the department being one of recent creation. I enclose an able Report on this subject for the year 1862, by Mr. Cappel, an officer of the Indian Government, whose services have been placed at the disposal of this Government, as Superintendent of Telegraphs in this Island.

34. The telegraph lines run from Galle to Colombo, a distance of 72 miles, from Colombo to Kandy, also a distance of 72 miles, and from the latter place to Tallamanaar, 164 miles, a total distance of 308 miles. From Tallamanaar the communication is carried on through the Paumben Channel to the coast of India, the distance being 53 miles. These lines were completed in the end of 1858. The total expenditure incurred by this Government up to 1862 for the construction of offices and line, including value of stores supplied by the Indian Government, and paid for last year in England, amounted to 21,519*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* It has been decided to extend the communication from Kandy to Trincomalee. The cost of this work has been estimated at 5,000*l.*, a moiety of which is to be defrayed from the revenues of this Island; the other moiety being contributed from Imperial funds. A sum of 600*l.* has been voted in the Supply Ordinance for this year towards this work.

In 1857	-	£4,840	2	10½
„ 1858	-	3,708	6	2½
„ 1859	-	9,065	6	2½
„ 1860	-	385	10	5½
„ 1862	-	3,520	11	5
		£21,519	17	2

35. The general results of the transactions of last year, given by the Superintendent, are satisfactory. The total number of messages despatched was 12,628, being less by 24 than those of the preceding year, 12,652. Of these, 3,602 messages were sent by native correspondents. The receipts for the year amounted to 4,367*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*, which includes a sum of 481*l.* 2*s.* 1½*d.* for public news messages sent free, and for which a pro formâ charge only is made. Deducting this sum, the net receipts carried to the credit of the Government amounted to 3,886*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* As compared with the net receipts of 1861, those of last year show an excess of 526*l.* 19*s.* 6¼*d.* The anomaly of a decrease in the number and an increase in the collections of 1862 over those of 1861 is explained by the fact, that the number of words in the messages of 1862 were greater than those of the preceding year. It will be seen that a large proportion of the receipts was derived from messages forwarded through Ceylon, the sum obtained from local messages being only 889*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* The Superintendent of Telegraphs does not attribute this to a want of appreciation of the advantages of the telegraph; for he states that at places where there are telegraph stations, all classes avail themselves very generally of its services; but he ascribes it to the limited number of the community generally, and especially of the mercantile portion, whence the greatest support is naturally expected. The cost of working in 1862 was 4,593*l.* 9*s.* 1¾*d.*, whilst in 1861 it amounted to 4,758*l.* 4*s.* 5¾*d.* As compared with the receipts, the expenditure is in excess by only 226*l.* 0*s.* 8¼*d.*

36. Statement G. appended to the Superintendent's Report shows the net receipts carried to the credit of the Government, the total expenditure, and the deficit in each year, from 1859 to 1862. Although the receipts have increased from 2,472*l.* 0*s.* 10½*d.* in 1859 to 3,886*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* in 1862, and the expenditure has been reduced from 5,682*l.* 14*s.* 0½*d.* in the former year to 4,720*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* in the latter, there has been a yearly deficit, which amounted in 1862 to 834*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* This was considerably less than the deficit of former years; but it still appeared to me to be an unsatisfactory state of things. I considered that the department should at least be able to recover the expenditure incurred for its maintenance. Seeing, moreover, that Ceylon profited but little by the large sum which it defrayed in comparison with India, it seemed to me equitable to impose a higher rate on messages through Ceylon to India than was charged for such messages as might be said to belong peculiarly to the island. The tariff of charges was accordingly revised last year, and the unit of 200 miles was fixed as the distance at which a message at the single rate could be transmitted, a double rate being charged for all distances over 200 miles. Hitherto Ceylon had been considered as one distance, without reference to its length of line, or the station to or from which the message was despatched. This alteration will I believe cause a considerable increase in the receipts, which, after defraying the annual expenditure, will I trust in future leave a surplus in favour of the department.

37. Notwithstanding the large expenditure incurred by this Government, it is to be regretted that the state of the lines is not by the present Superintendent represented to be very satisfactory. The whole of the lines, he says, were erected in very great haste, and in a very primitive manner. The wooden posts on the lines (with the exception of a very small section) are all reported to be in various stages of decay. Several of these posts have been renewed during the past year; but considerable repairs are still needed. In the portion of the line between Galle and Colombo the wire passes through cocoanut gardens close to the sea for nearly the whole distance, and being suspended from these trees by means of brackets, is subjected to great strain, and is also liable to injury from the fall of the leaves, and from being exposed to the full violence of the monsoon. In these circumstances it could not but be expected that there should be difficulties in the working of the lines. But it is satisfactory to learn that in spite of these difficulties the communication has been almost uninterruptedly maintained, and that there have been no complaints against the department in Ceylon.

Railway.

38. Although there is not much yet to be stated in connexion with the actual progress of the railway, the important fact that in 1862 the Government and the Legislature of this Colony came finally to the resolution of constructing a railway between Colombo and Kandy, and recommended to Her Majesty's Government the acceptance of one of the tenders submitted for the work, deserves to be specially recorded here.

39. On the receipt in this Island of the several tenders which had been invited by the Agents General for the Crown Colonies, in pursuance of the decision of this Government, the same were laid by me before the Legislative Council; and a committee of the Council was appointed to consider the subject, and to recommend the tender which appeared to it to be the most advantageous for the interest of the Colony. The tenders received were eight in number. The lowest was that of Mr. Faviell. Its amount was 873,039*l.* To this was to be added the sum of 509,000*l.* for value of the survey, works executed, and materials, plant, stores &c. (283,000*l.*), and the future expenditure for rolling stock, cost of land, provision for machinery, workshops, &c. (226,000*l.*), making the total amount of Mr. Faviell's tender 1,382,039*l.*, being within the amount (1,500,000*l.*) to which it had been decided by the Council to limit the cost for the railway. This was exclusive of the cost of maintenance of the line after its completion, for which Mr. Faviell tendered at the rate of 150*l.* per mile for one year, of 300*l.* per mile per annum for three, five or seven years, making the total cost of construction and maintenance for seven years, for which period it was considered desirable that the line should be kept up by the contractor, 1,028,439*l.*, or, adding the sum of 509,000*l.* for past and future expenditure, 1,537,439*l.* The work to be completed within four years from the date of signing the contract. The committee, after a careful consideration, recommended the acceptance of Mr. Faviell's tender. This recommendation was adopted by the Legislative Council, by a resolution unanimously agreed to at a meeting held on the 22d November last, which was forwarded to your Grace with my Despatch No. 233. of the 29th of that month. Mr. Faviell's tender was thereupon accepted by Her Majesty's Government; and a contract was entered into with him by the Agents General in London, on the basis of that tender. Mr. Faviell arrived here, with his staff of engineers, in the early part of this year, and the works are now in progress with a degree of energy and activity on the part of the contractor which is highly creditable to him.

40. With a view to providing funds for the construction of the railway, an Ordinance was passed last year for raising 1,000,000*l.* on debentures to be issued by this Government. It was not considered necessary to raise a larger loan, as calculations made with great care have satisfied me that the remainder of the money required for the purpose can be provided from the resources of the Colony. In addition to the amount of the export duty, estimated at 40,000*l.*, it was decided that a sum of 20,000*l.* a year should be appropriated from the general revenue towards railway liabilities; and, in accordance with instructions from Her Majesty's Government, further provision will have to be made in future years for liquidating this railway debt.

Legislation.

41. 19 Ordinances were passed during the session of last year. Of these, three, viz., No. 1, for vesting property occupied by the Naval Service of the United Kingdom in the Lord High Admiral, or the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral; No. 4., amending No. 5. of 1861, relating to wrecks, sea casualties, and salvage,

CEYLON.

and directing that the proceeds of the sales of unclaimed wreck shall be carried to the credit of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom, instead of being paid into the Colonial Treasury; and No. 5, to prohibit when required the exportation and carriage coastwise of military and naval stores, were enacted in pursuance of instructions received from Her Majesty's Government.

42. Ordinance No. 2 was a bill to naturalize W. F. A. Hinck, a German settler in the Colony.

43. The concession granted by Ordinance No. 3. of exempting paper from customs duty was made in consequence of an application from the proprietors of the local newspapers, paper being free from duty in England as well as in India.

44. Ordinances Nos. 6., 11., and 16. authorize the establishment of tolls on certain roads in the Western Province, which were called for by the state of traffic on those roads.

45. No. 7. was passed in consequence of certain representations made by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

46. No. 8 was the supplementary Supply Ordinance, providing for certain charges not included in the ordinary Supply Ordinance for the year.

47. The graveyard at Galle Face, Colombo, having been represented to be an overcrowded state, it was found necessary, on sanitary grounds, to close it partially. Ordinance No. 9. was therefore enacted with a view of restricting it to the use of the garrison of Colombo. Advantage was taken at the same time to make an alteration of the original trust deed, by providing for the interment of members of the garrison according to the rites of the church to which they belong. This provision became necessary in consequence of certain unseemly disputes which took place some time ago, owing to objections raised by a Chaplain to the right of the Presbyterian Chaplain and other Ministers of Religion to officiate therein.

48. The partial closing of the Galle Face burial ground, and the representations which were received of the overcrowded state of some other burial grounds, rendered it necessary that provision should be made for the establishment of general cemeteries in the Island. Ordinance No. 12 was passed with this view. It prescribes the principles which should guide the laying out of burial grounds, and contains general provisions for the proper management thereof. The several boards of health have been requested to state whether they consider it desirable to bring this Ordinance into operation in their respective Provinces. As regards Colombo, a piece of land about 40 acres in extent has already been selected, and will be laid out, enclosed, and prepared for immediate use.

49. The Indian Act, No. 25 of 1859, was passed to prevent the overcrowding of vessels carrying native passengers in the Bay of Bengal. The Ordinance No. 1 of 1860 was then enacted in this country to correspond with the Indian Act, and to prevent such overcrowding in the Gulf of Manaar and Palk's Straits. It was found, however, that where vessels brought passengers in excess of the prescribed number from India, thus committing a breach of the Indian Act, the tindals or masters could not be punished in Ceylon, and vice versâ. This was inconvenient, as the evidence was forthcoming at the port of disembarkation, and could not conveniently be conveyed thence. It was therefore agreed between the Indian and the Ceylon Government that legislative provision should be mutually made to remedy this defect, and the Ordinance No. 10 of 1862 was passed with this object, a corresponding measure having been enacted by the Government of Madras.

50. The want of a proper registration of marriages, births, and deaths in this Island had long been felt, the machinery for that purpose provided by the Ordinance No. 6. of 1847 having been found to be cumbersome, and in many respects impracticable. During the last session two Bills were prepared, and submitted to the Council, one for the registration of marriages, and the other for that of births and deaths. The former was withdrawn in consequence of objections raised to some of its provisions by different religious bodies. I have addressed your Grace on this subject separately, and have requested instructions as to the principle of a new and amended Ordinance which I propose to bring forward this year. Ordinance No. 13., which was passed by the Council, provides for the registration of births and deaths. It will be of material assistance in the formation of a general census, and will also confer great benefit on private individuals, by providing them with an easy and certain mode of proof of facts bearing on family inheritance and succession of property.

51. Ordinances Nos. 14. and 15. were measures required for the safety of the public. The possession of large quantities of gunpowder by dealers, who kept the same in

insecure places, and its removal from one place to another without proper precautions to avoid accidents, called for legislative interference, and led to the enactment of Ordinance No. 14., which provides for the construction of magazines for the deposit of gunpowder, and against the possession, sale, and removal of the article, except under certain restrictions. Ordinance No. 15., for the better preservation of public health, and the suppression of nuisances, was urgently called for by the circumstances of the Colony. The want of a law to provide against nuisances had been much felt; and the increase of population rendered it necessary to make provision for promoting the cleanliness of towns, and preserving the public health.

52. An erroneous impression seemed to exist in India as to the cause of the discrepancy between the arrivals and departures of coolies, which was ascribed to mortality amongst the men; whereas there was good reason to believe that a large number of the immigrants settled in Ceylon with their families, and never returned to India. It was considered desirable to remove this impression; and Ordinance No. 17., to ascertain the proportion of mortality amongst the natives of India employed in agricultural and other labour in Ceylon, was passed with this view.

53. Ordinance No. 18. provides for the contingent service of the year 1863. Besides a large sum for public works, and the usual provision for carrying on the administration of the Government under the various heads of service, a sum of 58,640*l.* has been provided for under the head of railway liabilities, which includes the estimated amount of export duty, viz., 38,640*l.* and 20,000*l.*, which it has been decided should be set apart annually from the general revenue towards the construction of the railway.

54. The last measure passed by the Council was Ordinance No. 19., for raising one million sterling on debentures, for the construction of a railway from Colombo to Kandy. In my Despatch No. 1. of 2d January last I explained fully the considerations which guided me and the Council in fixing the amount to be raised, and in determining the maximum and minimum periods for which the debentures should run.

Population.

55. The population return is made in the new form proposed by me in my Despatch No. 106. of the 21st May, and approved by your Grace's Despatch No. 106. of the 9th July last. Instead of the heads "white" and "coloured population," which appeared in former returns, that for last year distinguishes the number of the English residents and the European descendants from the coloured population. The latter is again divided into the "Singhalese," "Malabars," and others. The total population of all classes of inhabitants for 1862 was calculated at 2,079,881, showing an excess of 160,394 over the population of the preceding year. Although these figures cannot be considered as actually representing the exact numbers, those for 1862, being compiled from returns obtained from householders under the Road Ordinance of 1861, may be supposed to approximate more nearly to accuracy than the returns of previous years.

56. The population return shows also the numbers of births, marriages, and deaths during the year, which are given as follows:

Births - - -	48,602
Marriages - - -	19,518
Deaths - - - -	33,652

Owing to the great difficulties which impede all census operations in the east, I cannot present these figures as altogether reliable; but I trust that when the Ordinance No. 13. of 1862, for the registration of births and deaths, shall have been brought into operation, and a new Marriage Ordinance shall have been enacted, we shall be able to obtain more correct information on these points.

Public Health.

57. I enclose a Report by the Principal Civil Medical Officer on the state of his department and of the public health. The Report is full and interesting. It enters into great details with respect to the several hospitals in the Island, and gives an account of the various diseases which prevailed here, showing in some instances their origin and progress.

58. Dr. Charsley reports that during 1862 no special diseases prevailed throughout the Island to any serious extent, excepting "the endemic fevers which are always present "in certain localities, cholera, and small-pox, which gradually increased in virulence "from the beginning of 1862 until it became epidemic in the Northern and Western

CEYLON.

" Provinces before the close of the year." And as a proof of the generally improved condition of the public health, he mentions the fact that the number of admissions into the principal Government civil hospitals was considerably less than during 1861, and that the applications to the public stores for fever medicines for general distribution also diminished. This remark as to the improved condition of the public health applies, I conclude, to diseases other than cholera and small-pox, which, as will be shown hereafter, prevailed much more extensively in 1862 than in the preceding year.

59. Measles, it is stated, prevailed to a slight extent at the beginning of the year in the Western, North-western, Central, and Southern Provinces; and in Galle it appears they were attended with unusual mortality during the month of February. Sore throat of a malignant form was reported to be prevalent in Kandy in January and February, and whooping cough in the Southern Province during the months of August, September, and October.

60. These are the only diseases noticed by the Principal Civil Medical Officer in his Report, besides cholera and small-pox, to which I shall now more especially advert.

61. " Cholera," says Dr. Charsley, " assumed an epidemic form during the year 1862 " in the Central, Northern and Southern Provinces. The Western, North-western, and " Eastern Provinces also suffered in a slight degree; but in these a very few cases " occurred, and they might almost be considered sporadic." In the Northern Province the disease made its appearance in February, having been imported by an immigrant from India, and it continned till October; the number of cases which occurred being 2,129, and the number of deaths, 1,233. The Principal Civil Medical Officer adverts to the practice which obtains in the Jaffna district of soaking cocoanut husk, in order to separate the fibre, to which he attributes in a great measure the extensive prevalence of the disease in the localities in which that practice is carried on. With reference to this I may state that steps have been taken under the provisions of the Nuisance Ordinance of 1862 to put an end to the evil complained of. In the Central Province, too, the disease appears to have been imported. The first case occurred in April and the last in November. The number of cases was 196, of which 74 recovered and 122 died. In the Southern Province 194 cases were reported between the 5th August and 13th October, of which 105 recovered, and 89 died. In the other Provinces the number of cases was very small. The total number of cases throughout the Island was 2,594, and the number of deaths 1,488. The numbers of cases and deaths in 1862 were much larger than those of the preceding year, in which the cases reported were only 179, and the deaths 133. The rate of mortality, however, was less, being 57 per cent. in 1862, and 74 per cent. in 1861.

62. As stated in my Despatch No. 105. of the 27th May 1862, small-pox, which commenced in the early part of 1861, continued till the end of that year. It prevailed throughout the whole of last year, chiefly at Colombo, where it raged as an epidemic, and it gradually extended to other parts of the Island. Although the disease abated towards the end of the year, it has not yet disappeared, there being several cases at the present moment. The total number of cases reported in the Island was 2,190, and the number of deaths 336. In 1861 the numbers of cases were only 158, and of deaths 38. The rate of mortality was, however, lower in 1862, being only 15 per cent., whilst in 1861 it was 20 per cent.

63. The efforts made to extend vaccination in 1862 were attended with greater success than in previous years. The total number vaccinated in 1862 was 77,011, of which 56,884 were reported as successful; whilst in 1861 the number vaccinated was only 51,317, and the successful operations were 37,414.

64. Owing to the difficulty of carrying on vaccination, in consequence of the prejudices and apathy of the natives, the question of making vaccination compulsory is now under the consideration of the Government; and I hope to be able, at the ensuing session of the Legislative Council, to bring forward a measure to effect this object.

Ecclesiastical.

65. The Right Reverend Dr. Claughton, who was appointed by Her Majesty's Government Bishop of Colombo, in succession to Dr. Chapman, arrived here in October last, and commenced his labours with zeal and earnestness. I enclose an interesting Report from his lordship on the state of Religion in this Colony, as represented by the ministrations of the clergy and catechists of the Church of England.

66. The ecclesiastical returns show that there are 14 chaplains of the Church of England, 12 drawing salaries on the fixed and two on the provisional establishment.

Two of these receive also, in addition, allowances from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel; and there are two other clergymen belonging to the same society, to whom allowances in aid are given by the Government. This society has besides in its employ eight clergymen and 17 catechists. The number of places of worship belonging to it is 41, and the number of attendants is stated to be 3,484.

67. The return of the Church Missionary Society does not show the number of missionaries employed. The number of places of worship belonging to it is 28, and the average number of attendants last year was 1,195.

68. The Presbyterian Church has four clergymen on the fixed establishment, drawing salaries from Government, one receiving an allowance in aid, and two maintained entirely by the Church Extension Society.

69. The Wesleyan Mission has two divisions, south and north-east, Ceylon. In the former it has 18 stations, four English and 17 native ministers, and 72 places of worship, and the number of attendants was 4,082; in the latter it has seven stations, seven ministers, and 33 places of worship, and the number of attendants was 2,540.

70. The Baptist Mission has two European and 12 native ministers, 24 places of worship, and the average number of attendants was 1,058.

71. The American Mission confines its labours to the Northern Province. It has 10 stations, 12 missionaries, and 18 places of worship, and the average number of attendants was 1,351.

72. The Roman Catholic Mission has two divisions, the Western, Southern, and Central Provinces, under one bishop, and the Northern, Eastern, and North-western Provinces under another. In the former there are 20 missionaries and 141 churches; in the latter, 24 missionaries and 238 churches. There are besides three other missionaries under the patronage of the King of Portugal. The attendance in these churches is very large; but the returns do not in all cases give the number of attendants.

73. A sum of 400*l.* was granted by Government last year as donations to the Church, Wesleyan and Roman Catholic missions, and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

Education.

74. The returns for schools for the year 1862 show, as compared with the like returns for the previous year, a decrease of 289 in the number of pupils in the Government schools, the numbers being 5,518 in 1862, against 5,807 in 1861, and a decrease of 158 in the average daily attendance. The Secretary to the School Commission reports that this decrease has occurred chiefly in the vernacular schools, and that it is to be attributed in a great measure to the prevalence of small-pox in some of the most populous parts of the Island. Owing to the clergy of the Church Missionary Society at Jaffna having declined to continue their connexion with the School Commission, under the existing rule for grants in aid, there is a decrease of nine in the number of schools aided by Government, and of 253 in the number of pupils in such schools, the numbers being:—

In 1861,	schools 27	-	Pupils 1,677.
1862	do. 18	-	do. 1,424.

75. The expenditure by the Government on account of education amounted to 14,099*l.* 7*s.* 6¾*d.* in 1862, showing a decrease of 207*l.* 4*s.* 7¾*d.* as compared with the expenditure of 1861, which amounted to 14,306*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.*; whilst, on the other hand, there was an increase of 145*l.* 2*s.* 5½*d.* in the receipts from school fees, which amounted to 2,294*l.* 18*s.* 0½*d.*, the amount received in 1861 being only 2,149*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*

76. I enclose a copy of the Nineteenth Report of the Central School Commission for the period from 1st July 1861 to 30th June 1862, which gives a full account of the Government schools up to the middle of last year. Enclosure 4.

77. Besides these schools, it will be seen from the Blue Book Returns that there are two orphan schools supported by the Government for the maintenance and education of the orphan children of the deceased European soldiers of the garrison. There were last year 25 boys in the Male and 24 girls in the Female Orphan School.

78. The regimental schools, 15 in number, are supported by Her Majesty's Government. Five of these are for the instruction of the children of the European soldiers of the garrison in the different stations in the island. Of the remaining 10, five are adult schools for non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Ceylon Rifle Regiment, who are taught reading and writing in English and Malay, and five for the sons of the soldiers of

CEYLON.

that corps. A certain number of these boys are regularly taken on the strength of the regiment as half-pay boys; and when they are of sufficient age they are enlisted as privates. The number of pupils attending the regimental schools last year was 822.

79. The various missionary bodies in Ceylon are also extensively engaged in the work of education in this Island. There were no less than 329 schools maintained by them in 1862, affording instruction to 13,511 pupils. The following is an abstract of the schools belonginging to each mission:—

	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	62	2,366
Church Missionary Society	26	1,584
Wesleyan do.	107	4,364
Baptist do.	14	562
American do.	48	1,636
Roman Catholic do.	70	2,999
Total	327	13,511

80. These schools are entirely supported by the different missions, with the exception of those belonging to the Wesleyan and the Roman Catholic Missions in the Northern Province, who received last year from the Government grants in aid, the former of a sum of 281*l.* and the latter 200*l.*

81. The number of private schools in the different parts of the Island in 1862 was 784. Of these, five were English schools, having 332 pupils; seven, English and Singhalese and Tamil schools, having 274 pupils. The remainder were native schools, in which the instruction imparted was entirely in the Singhalese and Tamil languages, with the exception of a few Mahomedan schools, in which Arabic was taught. Of these native schools there were 211 in which the number of pupils was 4,902. The returns do not give the number of pupils in the remaining 561 schools.

82. With a view to the preparation of as full and comprehensive a Report as possible on the administration of the Colony during the past year, I directed the several Government Agents and other heads of departments to be called upon to furnish Reports on the state of their respective provinces and departments. Some of these Reports have been already referred to in preceding paragraphs. I append also to this Despatch several others, which contain interesting information on various matters connected with this Colony, which I think it desirable to place before Her Majesty's Government.

Enclosure 5.
Enclosure 6.
Enclosure 7.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. J. MAC CARTHY.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 22.

DECENNIAL RETURN of EXPORTS of COFFEE, CINNAMON, COCOANUT OIL, and COIR, the PRODUCE of the COLONY.

Year.	Coffee.			Cinnamon.			Cocoanut Oil.			Coir.			Total Amount of Customs Revenue from the foregoing Exports.
	Quantity.	Value.	Amount of Export Duty received.	Quantity.	Value.	Amount of Export Duty received.	Quantity.	Value.	Amount of Export Duty received.	Quantity.	Value.	Amount of Export Duty received.	
	Cwt.	£	£	Lbs.	£	£	Gallons.	£	£	Cwt.	£	£	£
1853	328,971	655,602	—	956,280	51,040	—	1,033,974	95,990	—	47,624	22,982	—	—
1854	407,622	850,846	—	784,284	45,184	—	1,059,272	121,298	—	58,028	43,702	—	—
1855	506,540	1,025,282	—	730,600	36,089	—	908,742	108,913	—	45,975	27,754	—	—
1856	440,819	981,723	—	877,547	45,370	—	1,046,326	101,591	—	29,564	19,028	—	—
1857	602,266	1,496,645	—	887,959	52,574	—	1,679,258	212,184	—	42,256	29,617	—	—
1858	544,507	1,337,122	27,226	750,744	37,537	751	777,162	77,716	1,949	40,420	32,419	511	30,437
1859	589,779	1,467,497	29,490	879,361	43,972	880	1,118,638	118,864	2,985	38,086	25,945	447	33,802
1860	620,132	1,574,033	31,007	675,156	33,758	675	1,549,089	154,909	3,890	36,616	24,864	458	36,030
1861	648,026	1,656,733	32,402	845,218	42,261	845	1,040,428	104,043	2,613	43,168	31,883	540	36,400
1862	605,178	1,445,284	30,259	875,475	43,774	876	1,429,531	142,953	3,591	46,595	37,648	583	35,309
Total	5,293,840	12,490,767	150,384	8,262,624	431,559	4,027	11,642.420	1,238,461	15,028	428,332	295,842	2,539	171,978

TOTAL VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS (including SPECIE and BULLION) from and to EACH COUNTRY, in each of the Years 1860, 1861, 1862.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
	1860.	1861.	1862.	1860.	1861.	1862.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom - -	1,043,052 1 8	801,491 11 10	836,319 1 11	1,638,994 7 10	1,724,740 0 7	1,703,574 1 1
British Possessions in India -	1,684,753 19 3	1,882,912 15 1	2,518,543 2 11	641,994 14 8	780,272 15 10	612,550 6 8
Mauritius - - -	470 2 3	2,585 8 0	37,801 3 1	7,288 15 10	9,539 19 6	11,565 15 9
Aden - - -	15 6 6	34 15 11	—	18 0 0	90 15 7	15 3 7
Hong Kong - - -	7,208 17 10	8,659 1 4	4,134 14 11	1,242 6 11	332 11 3	67 18 0
Australia - - -	515,107 7 10	738,201 1 5	570,495 8 8	40,852 12 1	47,401 0 0	34,744 4 2
Cape of Good Hope -	2 0 0	69 4 0	432 17 11	—	—	—
Gibraltar - - -	—	—	—	—	—	19,844 17 8
Sierra Leone - -	—	—	—	—	—	656 13 8
France - - -	4,910 19 6	1,497 12 0	835 7 0	110,443 8 9	70,073 4 3	54,572 15 11
Holland - - -	—	—	—	40,982 5 11	25,018 4 8	—
Suez - - -	112,887 11 10	66,771 8 2	74,841 3 8	735 4 8	1,318 1 0	1,373 17 6
French Possessions in India -	158,068 5 3	130,503 17 8	135,951 4 6	16,549 12 4	27,234 17 11	29,427 4 2
Maldive Islands - -	20,135 9 1	26,648 16 2	35,603 16 11	5,100 14 10	6,739 11 11	9,384 11 0
China - - -	0 15 9	—	—	—	—	—
United States of America -	3,369 19 11	4,111 15 6	16,566 12 3	45,339 10 5	13,445 19 8	16,342 16 0
Dutch Possessions in India -	3 0 0	—	—	1,044 9 4	—	—
Buenos Ayres - - -	—	240 0 0	—	—	—	—
Arabia - - -	1,252 18 3	—	11,614 17 11	—	—	—
Bourbon - - -	—	22 10 0	—	—	—	—
£	3,551,238 14 11	3,663,749 17 1	4,243,139 11 8	2,550,586 3 7	2,706,207 2 2	2,494,120 5 2

Customs, Colombo, March 1863. T. B. STEPHEN, Acting Collector.

CEYLON.

Enclosure 2 in No. 22.

Commissioner of Roads and Civil Engineer's Office,
Colombo, February 24, 1863.

SIR,

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your circular of the 28th February 1862, I do myself the honour of submitting a report on the state of the Public Works Department, together with a report on roads, called for by your Letter No. 106. of the 5th instant, the latter report forming an appendix to the former.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary. (Signed) T. SKINNER.

REPORT on the Condition of the Public Works Department, and on its operations during the year 1862.*

This being the first annual report which has been called for, I have some difficulty in determining into what extent of detail it should enter. If intended to be read, I feel it should be concise; but, on the other hand, if it is to be of any use, it must be the reverse. I will endeavour as far as possible to avoid an extreme in either direction.

Department Personnel.

The department consists of the following officers:—

Commissioner of Roads and Civil Engineer - - -	1
Officers on the fixed establishment - - - -	10
Office assistant - - - - - - -	1
Officers on the unfixed or provisional establishment - -	21
	33

Charge.—Their charge extends over an area of 24,000 square miles of country, divided into six provinces and 15 districts; 2,370 miles of roads and streets; 150 miles of inland navigation, exclusive of navigable rivers; 422 public buildings.

Expenditure.—The votes granted for public works last year, including Road Ordinance and private funds, under the Branch Road Grant in Aid Ordinance, amounted to 184,478*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.*; those for the current year to 210,571*l.* 5*s.* 8¾*d.* The average amount of the votes for the last five years is 199,151*l.* 10*s.* 9¼*d.*

Under Officered.—The department is so much under handed, and some of its officers so overworked, that it is impossible for them to devote that amount of supervision to their works, or that time and care to preparation of designs and estimates, which should be given to them. Inefficient and insufficient superintendences are costly, and have a demoralizing tendency in an oriental country, where merit, rather than the reverse, attaches to clever expert roguery, and where the disgrace of a dishonest act rests more in the clumsiness which leads to its detection than to the turpitude of the act itself. An overseer dismissed the service for dishonesty suffers very little in the social relations of life, further than being perhaps debarred from re-entering the service of Government, until his delinquency shall have been forgotten. He is not shunned by his relatives and friends as a man similarly circumstanced would be at home. The amount of the salary of a good superintending officer is little, compared with the amount he saves the public; whilst the check he is to dishonesty in subordinates is of itself worth paying for.

Two additional District Officers required.—Two additional district officers are very much needed, one for Matella, which has 79 miles of road, and another for Doombera, which has about 50 miles. Both these districts are at present under the district officer of Kandy, whose charge is otherwise extending in the direction of Deltotte on one side and Maturatta on the other. It is simply impossible he can do justice to so extended a charge. The Northern Province, the largest in the Island, requires more superintending officers. The experiment of doing without them, and of depending on educated overseers to supply their place, has been tried for many years, and has most signally failed. Experience convinces me that to force responsibility on the native, merely because he is educated and intelligent, is as inconsiderate and unfair to him as it is unjust to the public interest. When he has been sufficiently tried, and gradually, under European direction, has attained a position to lose, he becomes most valuable, in proof of which we have several honourable examples, in native gentlemen, who admit and deplore, quite as much as we do, the want of integrity in their race.

Work performed by Officers may be judged of by their Expenditure and Travelling.—The amount of work imposed on officers may be fairly judged of by the distance travelled by each of those in charge of districts during last year, and by the amount of money voted to their respective districts.

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* The Appendices to this Report are not printed.

	Amount voted.	Miles travelled during the Year.
	£	
1. Colombo assistants - - - - -	21,853	These officers travel about 10 or 12 miles a day each in Colombo.
2. District officer, Kandy Road - - - -	27,606	Sick for several months.
3. Provincial assistant, Northern Province - -	11,433	4,443
4. District officer, Negombo - - - -	5,130	3,789
5. Do. Kandy - - - -	31,330	3,246
6. Provincial assistant, Southern Province - -	11,226	2,889
7. District officer, Putlam - - - -	5,016	2,759
8. Do. Kotmalie - - - -	11,856	2,697
9. Do. Caltura - - - -	3,595	2,491
10. Do. Onvah - - - -	6,598	2,343
11. Do. Nuarakalawia - - - -	Included in that of the North Province -	2,308
12. Do. Saffragam - - - -	4,010	1,957
13. Do. 7 Korles - - - -	3,671	1,814
14. Do. Batticaloa - - - -	1,797	1,593
15. Do. Trincomalie - - - -	3,243	973

Office System.

Estimates.—I have so recently and so fully in my letter No. 129. of the 6th instant represented to Government the defects in our form and system of estimating, that I will not encumber this report with further reference to the subject than to express a hope that relief from the complications of account, and multiplicity of writing, inherent in our existing system, may be conceded. The department is at present weighed down with an amount of clerical duties which the clerks in the head quarters office can only with the greatest exertion get through, with the assistance of occasional job work out of the office.

Necessity for earlier sanction of Estimates.—I must here advert to the great disadvantage to the department and loss to the public which results from the non-sanction of road estimates before the date (1st January in each year) at which they ought to come into operation. The result of the unusual delay in this respect last year was the loss of valuable labour, which we could not recover throughout the year. In February 1862, when we should have had 10,000 or 12,000 men at work, we were reduced to 3,500, for want of sanctioned estimates on which to employ them. This year we have again suffered from the same cause, though happily in a minor degree, although some of our estimates were sanctioned early in January. Nothing short of the road estimates being sanctioned, and of officers being authorized to continue their force in unbroken employment, will prevent the loss we are now annually subject to, of numbers of valuable men, who, naturally objecting to be kept on in idleness, and uncertainty as to when they will be permitted to resume work, yield to the temptations of those in search of labour, of whom there is never any lack.

Labour.

Three descriptions of.—The labour employed in the public works of the Colony is of three descriptiods; firstly, the fixed establishment of pioneers; secondly, local labourers, skilled and unskilled; thirdly, immigrants, unskilled.

Pioneers.—The pioneer force consists of 10 divisions, the aggregate strength of which should be 10 officers, 70 non-commissioned officers, 2,000 artificers and pioneers of various grades, and 100 boys; but it is at present 12 non-commissioned officers and 662 men below its strength. Although the pioneers are, as they ought to be, more highly paid than casual labourers, whether local or immigrant, their work is always (when the men are properly handled and fairly treated) as much lower in cost as it is superior in quality to that of any other class of labour. The force has frequently been on the very verge of being entirely disbanded; but, a portion of it having happily outlived the prejudice against it as a "fixed establishment," its value is now as highly appreciated as it before was decried. The expected reinforcement of 1,000 men from the North-west Provinces of Bengal will restore the divisions to something like their former efficiency. It has been suggested to Government to increase the force of Punjabees to 5,000 men, but I submit it would be premature to do so, until the cost, and the suitableness for the service, and to the climate, &c. &c. of the 1,000 men now being raised has been tested.

Local Labour.—It might naturally be supposed that this Colony ought to produce a supply of local labour more in proportion to its wants than it does, but there are only three of the six Provinces from which we draw any. They are the southern, the eastern, and the northern, and the supply from them

CEYLON.

is annually diminishing to so serious an extent that we can no longer depend upon it. It is, moreover, of a very inferior quality, and is becoming more expensive than immigrant labour. The native of the country has his occupations, in the cultivation of his own land, and the rural population generally are so well circumstanced (better perhaps than that of almost any country in the world) that there is little need for them to work for a subsistence. With native artificers the Colony is well supplied from its own population. Carpenters, sawyers, coopers, wheelwrights, masons, smiths, &c., &c. are abundant and good, but they can seldom be induced to leave their villages or the large towns without very high wages.

Immigrant.—As upon immigrant labour the public works and the cultivation of coffee in this Colony must mainly depend, it is by far the most important of the three descriptions I have named. Our wants at present are, as I presently will show, most inadequately met. Our requirements are annually increasing, while it is reasonably (I think) apprehended that the supply from those sources whence we have heretofore drawn it is likely to decrease rather than the reverse. The question is one which has occupied much of my attention, as it has that of most other employers of labour, but I cannot learn that any satisfactory solution of our difficulty has yet been arrived at.

Chinese.—It has been suggested to me that from the districts of China which are over-run by the Taeping rebels any number of families would gladly emigrate, to escape the devastation and misery they are doomed to in their own country. Independently of the value of such labour, the prospect of eventually getting such a people to settle in the Colony would, as it seems to me, be of incalculable advantage. They would introduce new sources of industry to the people, and would in every respect be a valuable element in the development of the country. The experiment might be tried on a moderate scale, and by degrees at first. From 30 to 50 families might be brought over by each of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's boats. If it is found to answer, and does not prove too costly, it might be carried out to a larger extent, as well by private enterprize as by the Government. But it is not to so remote a field that we should altogether look for the great bulk of our immigrant labour, which, I believe, with judicious management, may be drawn from nearer sources.

Carnatics.—The men we like best for our works, after the active intelligent little Tamil of the Madoora and Tanjore districts, are what are termed "Carnatics," a fine race of men, a number of whom immigrate yearly. Mysore, the capital of their territory, is only, I believe, 75 or 80 miles from Mangalore, which might be made the port of shipment in the north-east monsoon. It is only two or three days' sail from this. With a properly organized system, I am of opinion that a good, cheap, and sufficient supply of labour might be obtained from this district.

Amount required for 1862.—The average number of days' labour required for every 100*l.* voted for the public works is about 2,000 for the works of 1862–3. 256,000 days' labour were needed, or at the rate of 10,853 daily for 300 working days. To provide for sick and absentees, from one fourth to one third more should be added, so that there ought to have been on the rolls of the department 13,566 men daily throughout last year; but in consequence of the insufficiency of labour, 13,000*l.* remained unexpended at the close of last year, which sum approximately represents 260,000 days' labour.

For 1863.—For the current year we require about 15,000 men daily. At present we have about 5,000. This latter number will increase as the season advances and the demand for labour on coffee estates declines; but I have little hope that we shall at any period throughout this year reach the limit of our requirements. Thus, I think, it is shown that a very urgent necessity exists for immediate measures being adopted for the introduction of labour for the public works of the Colony. This necessity will, I fear, be more urgent after the railway works have been resumed, the workmen generally prefering earth work to any other.

Transport.

Carts.—The supply of transport is at all times very precarious, and during the present year will be a subject of great anxiety. On an average, for every 100*l.* of money voted we require from 145 to 150 carts. For the current year we need to employ daily on the works 730 for 300 working days; but in consequence of the demand for the coffee crops, and of disease amongst the cattle, we are nearly paralyzed for want of transport, and should have been completely so but for that belonging to the department, amounting to 120 carts. 30 of these are working in Colombo, where it would have been impossible for us to have hired carts for our works. Private carts have been earning, I hear, at times, from 7*s.* to 8*s.* a day. Government has been anxious that the department should get rid of its transport establishment, and I should have been equally so, could I have placed any dependence on the market supply. I have encouraged contracts for transport whenever it could be obtained, and last year succeeded for a large portion of the work on the Kandy road. I renewed my attempt this year with less success. The officer in charge of that line apprehends the greatest difficulty in getting the contractors to fulfil their engagements.

Elephants.—Our stock of elephants is lower than it should be. I am unable to meet demands for them for building purposes. The present establishment consists of only 15 (some of those are getting old); but Government has recognized the expediency of increasing the number to 20.

Contract System.

Satisfactory result as regards Buildings.—In 1853–4 I first introduced generally the system of executing works by contract, and felt satisfied that, with due precaution, it would work well; but on my return from England in 1856 I found that it had been given up. The system was not thought well of by the several officers of the department; and it was not until I rejoined it from the Audit Office, in

1861 that I resolved finally to enforce it in all cases of public buildings. Since then it has worked most satisfactorily; and I hope Government will not again allow it to be departed from, except in particular cases, where special necessity may be shown for a work being conducted by the department.

In 1861 there were 30 works executed on contract, at an estimated cost of 4,801*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, the actual cost 4,588*l.* 13*s.* 7¼*d.*, saving 213*l.* 5*s.* 10¾*d.*

In 1862 there were 105 works, estimated to cost 19,532*l.* 3*s.* 0¾*d.*, executed on contract for 17,860*l.* 3*s.* 6½*d.*, showing a saving of 8½ per cent., or 1,671*l.* 19*s.* 6¼*d.*

As regards road works, cannot be carried to same extent.—In road works we get nearly all metal broken by piece or contract work; that is, it is either broken for 1*d.* or 1¼*d.* a heaped bushel, or, including blasting and materials necessary for that operation, at so much more. Other contracts are made for providing depôts of metal of given dimensions and capacities. Some contracts are also given for the up-keep of unimportant lines of road; but we have not yet arrived at that stage when our principal thoroughfares can be entrusted to contractors, whose failure would entail consequences too serious to the public to admit of the experiment being tried. Bushels of metal represent so much money. The Kandy road alone consumes about a million bushels a year; and it would be exceedingly difficult to ensure this quantity of the proper quality of stone being laid upon the road. We must, therefore, I fear, continue our present system for yet some time to come.

Roads.

New.—Only three sections of new road have been in hand during the past year, one a principal road in the Saffragam district, and two short extensions leading into coffee districts, under the "Branch Road Grant in Aid Ordinance."

Balangodde road.—The first is a continuation from Palmadulla to Balangodde of the line from Colombo through Ratnapoora, round the western and southern base of the mountain zone, to Ouvah, by the Hapootella Pass. The completion of this section of 15 miles of road in about 10 months has been one of the most satisfactory works executed in the country for many years. It is a road which has been long asked for by the natives of the district, whose unvarying loyalty and good conduct well merited the favourable consideration of Government, the more so as so little of the public revenue had ever been devoted to the improvement of their district; but when, in addition to the claims of the natives, the wants of a rich newly opened coffee district were to be subserved by the opening of this line, there could not, I think, be any justification for the work being longer postponed.

Knuckles and Dimboola roads.—An extension of a road of little less than four miles has been made towards the Knuckles coffee district, and another of about five miles has been in hand in the Kotmalie district, leading to Dimboola. Both of these works have been longer in hand than could have been desired, in consequence of the scarcity of labour.

Old roads.—It will be seen that there are of principal and public roads (distinct from minor roads, with which this department has no concern)—

560 miles of metalled road.
457 miles of gravelled road.
1,353 miles of ungravelled road.

Complaints have recently been made of the condition of some of the roads; but, considering the extraordinary disadvantages under which they were placed last year, it ought to be a subject of congratulation to the Colony that they were in a state to bear the trial as well as they have done. The most valuable season for the collection and preparation of materials for road repairs is during the dry months from January to June, after which, on the setting in of the rains, those materials are laid down with economy and advantage; but last year, in some instances, work was not commenced until the expiration of three of our best months. Then to a scarcity of labour was added one of the most continuous wet seasons ever known here. From the 1st of July to 31st December there were 161 days of rain, and only 23 without it. In consequence of this, disease broke out amongst the draft cattle, transport became scarce and very dear, and, under the temptation of high rates, almost every cart seen upon the roads was so overcrowded, and the animals could progress with such difficulty, that in their efforts to move forward they yawed from side to side, the narrow overweighed wheels working into the road surface. As a remedy to this, it has often been suggested that weighbridges should be established at our toll stations, and that the tolls should be regulated by weight of cart. I was once very much impressed with the desirableness of adopting this check, but when in England, from 1854 to 1856, I was thrown a good deal into communication with the late Mr. MacAdam, and discussed this subject in common with many others having reference to roads, his strong advice was, "*never interfere with or hamper the carrier;*" and he pointed out to me how totally futile English legislation had proved in its efforts to protect the road surface, by a reduction of toll rates in proportion to the breadth of the wheel. The wheels were broad and heavy, thus*, but the whole weight of load was borne on one third its width, that is, the centre 3½-inch tire. I incline to think that instead of subjecting the ignorant carter to all the imposition which would be practised on him by tollkeepers in their abuse of the weighbridge, we should be bound to make our roads sufficiently strong to bear the traffic they are subject to. After all, there must be a limit to the draft power of a pair of bullocks, and though they now draw a load of two tons I think they are never likely to exceed it. If the



CEYLON.

present rate of tolls is insufficient to meet the wear and tear caused by the traffic, it might be generally raised. This, I think, would be better policy than any restriction placed on the weight of load, which would prove a discouragement to the use of superior cattle.

Average rate of expenditure per mile.—The expenditure on the upkeep of 391 miles of metalled roads which has been kept distinct has averaged during the year 105*l.* 16*s.* 4¾*d.* a mile. The maximum has been 279*l.* 7*s.* 2½*d.* a mile on the Kandy Road; the minimum 54*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* a mile on the Galle Road. The average cost per mile for all other roads (excluding from the calculation about 500 miles of coast road, in which little or no expenditure has been incurred,) has been 23*l.* 12*s.* 4½*d.* a mile.

Bridges.

Iron trellis.—Four of these valuable structures have been erected during last year; one of 100 feet span on the Galle road, one of 80 feet over a mountain stream in Doombera, and two smaller ones on the new Ballangodde road. 18 of these bridges, of lengths varying from 50 to 240 feet, have now been erected, and are found to be most suitable to the country.

Inland Navigation.

Canals and lakes.—Inland navigation extends along and parallel with the western coast for about 150 miles from Caltura to Calpentyn. There are also four rivers between Matura on the south coast and Colombo, which are navigable for various distances.

Rivers.—The Matura River for about 28 miles.

The Kaloogange at Caltura for about 60 miles.

The Calany at Colombo for about 45 miles.

The Gindurah for about 30 miles.

These lines of water communications are most valuable, especially the coast line, connected as the northern section of it is with our salt depôt at Putlam. After Sir Edward Barnes' Government (he cut the Nataude Canal), this line of water communication fell into disfavour, and was allowed for many years to become closed, and it was not without difficulty that in 1851 the Government could be induced to commence the restoration of it. I am happy to say that the promises of permanent utility held out as likely to be the result of the required expenditure has been more than realized. There is now a busy active traffic on it, the tolls having increased in ten years from 293*l.* in 1852 to 3,152*l.* in 1862.

There is yet much to be done to prepare these waters for the steam power which they are destined one of these days to receive, and I trust the improvement may be progressive. In four years, from 1859 to 1862 inclusive—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The canal tolls amount to - - - - - -	12,263	0	0
Expenditure to - - - - - - -	17,416	7	1¼

Cost of Work,

Great importance of, to all interests in the Colony.—The cost of work is a subject of such vital importance to every interest in the Colony, that I consider myself justified in entering upon it in this report. Idleness, incapacity, and fraud are all for ever combined to raise it; nothing so palatable to these elements of waste as an extravagant estimate, which will bear from 30 to 50 per cent. to pay for them, and it requires the continued vigilance of the Commissioner of Public Works to keep the rates within just limits. It would be difficult to determine the difference which care and economy, or disregard of them, would make in the year's expenditure of 200,000*l.*; not less, I believe, than from 20,000*l.* to 50,000*l.*

In my evidence before a select committee of the Legislative Council on the railway question in 1859, as to the cost of work connected with roads and buildings, and in 1861, when, as a member of another such committee on the same subject, I gave a statement of what the cost of work had been on roads, and what it ought not to exceed in the construction of the railway, I differed so extremely from the views of the officer who was then acting in the appointment of Commissioner of Roads and Civil Engineer, that my persistent efforts to save the Colony from the exorbitant prices which he and the Railway Engineer advocated, and on which the estimate for the railway was raised to nearly two millions and a quarter sterling, were attributed to self-deception and worse motives. It is therefore with satisfaction that I record the result of my operations for 1862 in proof of the accuracy of the data I have maintained.

On the new Ballangodde road the following quantities of work were executed at the prices stated opposite to each:—

130,959 cubic yards of excavation cost 5½*d.* a yard, inclusive of a great deal of rocky soil, estimated at 2*s.* a cubic yard. The cost of ordinary earth work was 3¾*d.* a cubic yard.

2,647 cubic yards of masonry abutments laid in mortar 3*s.* 10½*d.* a cubic yard.

3,498 cubic yards of dry rubble masonry cost 1*s.* 4*d.* a cubic yard.

113 cubic yards of brick work, 17*s.* 7½*d.* a cubic yard (expensive from its limited quantity). Blasting, of which there was some very heavy, cost 52*l.* a mile.

The result of the great saving made on an estimate based on data far lower than that advocated in 1859 and 1861 is, that the Government feels itself justified in extending a road which was to have been only 15 miles to double that distance.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Galmalla oya Bridge.—Again, in another work, (the Galmalla oya Bridge in Doombera,) which was estimated to cost -				2,919	19	0
The expenditure has been - - -	1,597	16	7¼			
But deducting the pay of the officer (Mr. James Robertson) who built it - - - -	173	1	4			
The cost was - - - - - -				1,424	15	3¼
Showing a saving of - - - - - -				1,495	3	8¾

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
But on the estimate of - - -				2,919	19	0
The iron girders, for which a very trifling saving could be made, amounted to - - -	650	0	0			
So that the portion of the estimate on which any saving could be effected was - - -				2,269	19	0
And the expenditure, minus officer's pay - -				803	15	3¼
Showing a saving of 64½ per cent., or - -				1,466	3	8¾

The new works in the Knuckles and the Dimbola roads, although the cost is slightly enhanced by reason of the remoteness of the localities and difficulty of the works, exhibit the same general character as regards cost. I have thus referred to this subject, feeling strongly how much the progress of improvement in the Colony depends upon the degree of economy and efficiency with which the means set apart for public works are expended. Stronger illustrations than the two works I have instanced, and the reduction of upwards of 700,000*l.* in the estimate for the railway, need not be given ; and, after all, these results are mainly dependent upon the rate of cost at which a cubic yard of earth work, and of masonry &c., &c., can be executed. These are, therefore, I submit, though apparently so trifling in themselves, worthy of constant and close attention.

Buildings.

Gaols and salt stores.—The public buildings of the Colony generally are in pretty fair order. The two classes of them which at present call for most urgent attention are a few small-class gaols, and salt stores at all our salt depôts. A new gaol for Galle has been provided in the Supply Bill for this year, and I hope next year may see several other stations similarly provided for. As regards salt stores, differences of opinion exist as to the description of buildings best calculated for the purpose. Some revenue officers advocate temporary stores, with cocoanut or palmira leaf walls and roofs ; others desire masonry structures. Some are anxious for wooden ones. There can be no doubt that the preference should be given to the latter; no masonry will withstand the deteriorating effect of salt on it, and the system of storing salt in compartments of given capacities, directed to be adopted by the Secretary of State, can only be properly carried out with timber stores, which, when once saturated with brine, become almost imperishable. Three stores of this description were built at Putlam a few years ago; their cost was excessive. and probably some details of their plan and arrangement may admit of modification and improvement.

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(Signed) T. SKINNER,
Commissioner of Roads and Civil Engineer.

Commissioner of Roads and Civil Engineer's Office,
Colombo, 24th February 1863.

Commissioner of Roads and Civil Engineer's Office,
Colombo, June 10, 1863.

Sir,

I regret that my long absence from Colombo at the early part of this year, and the heavy pressure of other urgent claims upon my time, have contributed to delay the transmission to you of the usual report of the public works for 1862, which I now do myself the honour of herewith forwarding.

Roads, Streets, and Bridges.

Under the foregoing heads there was voted for the year,—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From General Revenue - - - -	110,370	3	11			
„ Road Ordinance funds - - -	19,393	1	7			
„ Private contributions under Grants in Aid Ordinance - - - -	9,094	15	10			
				138,858	1	4

CEYLON.

Of the foregoing, in consequence of scarcity of labour and other causes, there was expended only,—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From General Revenue	87,219	1	8½			
„ Road Ordinance funds	17,122	15	10½			
„ Private contributions under Grants in Aid Ordinance	7,659	16	11¼			
				112,001	14	6¼
Leaving an unexpended balance of				26,856	6	9¾

Less Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From General Revenue	23,151	2	2½			
„ Road Ordinance funds	2,270	5	8½			
„ Private contributions	1,434	18	10¾			
				26,856	6	9¾

The new works on hand during the year, and the expenditure incurred on them, are as follow:—

	£	s.	d.
Western Province:—			
Opening 15 miles of new road from Palmadulla to Ballangodde	8,550	13	11¼
Central Province:—			
Opening a new road from Maddool Kelle to Kooloogange in Doombera	3,603	9	4¼
Opening a new road, the Pusilawe line towards the valley of the Poondooloya in Kotmalie	3,556	11	11
Completion of road from Madawelle to Rajawelle in Doombera	611	8	1¾
Completion of Ratolle road in Matelle (settlement of an outstanding claim)	273	0	2
Northern Province:—			
New road from Kodegomoe to Poottoor	429	19	2
Road from central roads towards Mullativoe	138	2	1½

The expenditure on canals and inland navigation during the year has been 4,285*l.* 17*s.* 7¾*d.*, and I am happy to state with the best effect. The northern canals between Colombo and Putlam have been kept in a state of efficiency, the traffic having increased on them to an extraordinary extent

	£
The canal tolls rented in 1862 for	3,152
In 1852 they yielded only	293
	2,859

Showing an increase of 975¾ per cent. in ten years.

For the improvement and upkeep of roads a sum of 95,993*l.* 15*s.* 10¼*d.* was voted, but in consequence of the scarcity of labour the expenditure amounted to only 85,738*l.* 11*s.* 4¼*d.*, showing a deficiency of expenditure (not a saving) of 10,255*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*

The average expenditure on metalled roads may be stated to have been about 106*l.* a mile; the maximum, on the Kandy road, about 280*l.*; the minimum, on the Galle road, about 55*l.* The average cost of all other roads has been about 24*l.* a mile.

In consequence of the continued rains of 1862, and the scarcity of labour up to December last, the roads generally had suffered to some extent; but the wet weather having been general throughout the Island during the first four months of the present year, and the scarcity of labour having increased, many roads (particularly the principal one in the Colony between Colombo and Kandy) have suffered very severely.

New Bridges.

	£	s.	d.
On this description of service there has been expended	4,730	19	1½
Western Province:—			
The principal item in this Province under this head was a jetty at the port of Colombo	760	10	2½
And on two small bridges	198	19	9
Southern Province:—			
An iron trellis bridge on Galle road at Dodandowe about six miles from Galle	1,313	15	0
Northern Province:—			
On the Kanagarian Aar bridge undertaken last year	236	6	9¾
On temporary bridge for the use of post office runners	23	12	5½

Central Province :—

An iron trellis bridge in Doombera	1,597	16	7¼
Completion and repair of other bridges of minor import	4,934	3	11

Of new buildings the following have been undertaken, and a sum of 5,041*l.* 19*s.* 10¾*d.* expended on them.

Western Province :—	£	*s.*	*d.*
The customs warehouse and landing jetty near St. John's River	0	2	0
The new civil hospital at Colombo	1,821	15	0
The Singhalese church at Hulfsdorp	242	3	3¼
A grain shed at Barberyn	79	17	6
The new court-house at Hulfsdorp	7	6	6
The completing the new court-house at Hulfsdorp	188	17	4½
The new pauper hospital at Colombo	1	9	6
	2,341	11	1¾

North-western Province :—			
A new court-house at Korngalle	59	4	4½
Two salt stores in the Putlam district	3	1	10
Do. do. do.	1	0	6
A new house, &c., for the Assistant Government Agent at Putlam	690	0	0
	753	6	8½

Eastern Province :—			
A new office and store for the Assistant Civil Engineer at Trimcomalee	191	19	4
The light-houses at Foul Point and Round Island	844	3	8½
	1,036	3	0½

Central Province :—			
A church at Dellotte	168	0	0
A residence for the Superintendent, cinchona garden at Nuwere Ellia	99	19	0
A hospital in Badulla for estate coolies and paupers	100	0	0
A cutcherry at Matelle	443	0	0
A parsonage at Matelle	100	0	0
	910	19	0

Having, in my annual report on the condition of public works and of the department, dated 24th February 1863, forwarded with my letter No. 198, gone into full details in respect of them, I do not deem it necessary to trouble his Excellency the Governor with a fuller report on the present occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. SKINNER,
Commissioner of Roads and Civil Engineer.

Enclosure 3 in No. 22.

SIR, Surveyor General's Office, Colombo, February 11, 1863.

IN compliance with your circular of the 28th February 1862, I have the honour to forward "A full and comprehensive report of the state of the Survey Department, and the progress made during the past year." *

In dealing with the subject I propose to give the results of the survey operations by Provinces, in the first instance, and in the next to advert to the present state of the department. Appendices† A. and B. are attached to facilitate reference, and afford full explanation under both heads.

Central Province.—The sales in this Province during 1862 have proved far more satisfactory in a financial point of view than in any preceding year. Since 1859 the average acreage annually sold has been between 10,000 and 11,000 acres, at the price of 1*l.* 8*s.* per acre, but in 1862 there were 9,545 acres disposed of for 23,238*l.*, being at the rate of 2*l.* 8*s.* per acre, an advance of more than 70 per cent. on the previous value of land.

The localities of the sales were chiefly, Happootelle, where 2,460 acres (at the rate of 4*l.* an acre) were added to the list of nearly 12,000 previously sold; and Badulla, where 1,126 acres brought 2,457*l.*

* Not printed.

† The Appendices are not printed.

CEYLON.

The districts of Deek Oya and Ooda Puselawe have also been favourite sites for investment in 1862; the first almost a new one; the second an old one. The former was long unnoticed, on account of its contiguity to the poor soil of Ambegomua, but as it is now found to be of a superior nature, 1,600 acres have been sold at the upset price of 1*l.* In the latter, land laid out four years ago remained on hand till 1862, when every acre available at once met with purchasers and even competition, 1,702 acres bringing 2,932*l.*

Matelle was remarkable for one lot of 248 acres being sold for 1,700*l.*

Comparing the statistical results of the Deek Oya sales with the rest, I may remark that good forest land in the Central Province is worth 1*l.* an acre where there is no road, and double or treble the value where a road already exists.

Western Province.—A great difference is noticeable in the character of the land transactions and surveys of the Central and Western Provinces, for whereas in the former the disposal of Crown lands forms nineteen-twentieths of the entire business, the cutcherry of the latter is concerned to the extent of half the acreage disposed of in dealing with encroachments, with lands granted at half valuation, or wholly relinquished to claimants after 30 years' possession, on the payment of fees for title deeds, and with the settlement of those lands granted to natives on deposits of money in 1844, but in return for which deposits the promised surveys and deeds have been till recently, from a paucity of surveyors, unavoidably withheld.

Of Crown lands, 3,778 acres have been sold for 6,217*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 13*s.* per acre; of encroachments, 682 acres for 1,055*l.*; of lands granted at half valuation, 770 acres for 967*l.* In addition to which, 272 of the grants of 1844, containing 1,977 acres, were settled by the Government Agent, and 1,181 lots, containing 3,056 acres, were given over to squatters, on the score of long possession.

The total transactions amount to 2,347 lots, representing 10,267 acres, for which 8,735*l.* have been paid.

Eastern Province.—The survey operations in this Province, and indeed for the past four years, have been wholly confined to the Batticaloa district, with the exception of a few lots at Cottiar, and part of the town of Trincomalee. Altogether, during that time, more than 21,000*l.* have been received in the gross from a country where land has rarely exceeded the upset price of 1*l.* In 1862, 207 lots, including 915 acres, were sold for 1,023*l.*; and encroachments of 314 acres were disposed of for 412*l.* 581 acres were granted at half valuation for 513*l.*, and 1,497 acres in consideration of the survey fees, free of other charge, to squatters who could prove long possession. On the whole 536 lots, containing 3,308 acres, brought 1,948*l.*

Southern Province.—This is the Province where the highest rate for land has been obtained, although the acreage sold is small compared with that of other Provinces. The return shows that 241 acres in 85 lots were sold for 2,876*l.*, 96 acres alone, in the Girreway Pattoo, under the influence of the irrigation works, producing 2,062*l.*, or 21*l.* an acre. These are old paddy lands, called Mallapalle, held under licence from Government, and now sold as a set-off against the expenditure of the irrigation works. Owing to the certainty now held out of annual cultivation, whether the season be dry or wet, some lots at Maracadde reached the high figure of 40*l.* to 50*l.* an acre.

North-western Province.—In this Province the receipts have been 1,916*l.* for 1,386 acres. No surveyor having been at work there till the latter end of the year 1862, these acres formed part of the stock in hand at the cutcherry, and were sold on re-advertisement. They were situated chiefly in the Chilan district, and are most probably intended for cocoanut gardens.

Northern Province.—The result has been very small last year in this Province. It is true only one surveyor has been employed in the Jaffna peninsula, but his expenses have not been covered by the total receipts, only 424*l.* appearing in the return, against an expenditure of 469*l.*

The proportion of sold acres is small compared with those advertised, being as 151 to 399; and this is referable in some measure to the practice of raising the upset price of waste lands to 2*l.*, 3*l.*, and even 5*l.* an acre; a system not pursued in the Western and Central Provinces.

At the desire of his Excellency the Governor, the boutiques of Amwadhapoora have been laid out for sale, but will not be brought to account until 1863.*

Another source of income distinct from the above is the charge of fees on account of surveys, which last year reached the amount of 5,405*l.* throughout the Island.

In addition to the surveys of lands for sale and settlement, other operations of the Survey Department were performed which require notice.

The Temple lands survey was restricted in 1862, owing to other pressing demands, to one surveyor, who unfortunately, in the unhealthy district of Dambool, contracted an illness which prostrated him for 2½ months. However, there were forwarded to the commissioners, for their authentication, 2,763 acres in 213 lots, appertaining to 41 temples.

The survey of the railway line, of the roads and rivers near to it, and the private properties through which it runs, has been carried out last year from the 36th mile to the 71st. In this stretch of 35 miles, throughout a difficult country, 560 properties have been laid out, and this completes the question of the survey of "the lands adjacent to the railway."

A separate and distinct branch of the duties of this department consists in carrying into effect the 86th clause of the New Road Ordinance, respecting the erection or repair of any building on the highways. I may say this clause is now perfectly understood in Colombo, in consequence of its having been translated into Singhalese and Tamil, and copies affixed to police stations and other parts

* The ancient capital of the island, grand as it is in ruins, cannot now be dignified with the name of even a town. A few boutiques or petty shops are alone to be seen amidst its ancient architecture.

of the town. 75 "notices to build" in 1862 were forwarded to this department, through the Chairman of the Provincial Road Committee, and have been attended to. But while the effect of the clause will be undoubtedly the prevention of future encroachments, unfortunately for the convenience and sanitary condition of the town, every block of houses abounds with encroachments of so old a standing that the removal of them would inflict hardships on present occupants, and at the same time entail on Government both labour and difficulty, and nothing satisfactory after all could be proved against claimants without a new survey of Colombo. Financially this work would be unremunerative; yet it seems somewhat inconsistent, that while this department has a survey of almost every town of large or small note in the island, that of the metropolis has never been attempted, except in former times in isolated blocks, which when put together as a whole are entirely unreliable.

In concluding the history of the field operations, I should remark, that no trigonometrical observations, except for minor points, were carried on last year, in consequence of every effort having been made to bring the waste lands into the market.

Turning now to the office in Colombo, I have to report that preliminary plans of 28,417 acres in 4,063 lots were forwarded in 1862 to the several Government Agents, and the same were all inserted in the record plans, as well as the roads and paths connecting them with fixed points or old surveys. The extent would seem small in any country where waste land is abundant, but as a real test of the labour the number of lots is a better guide. Omitting the Central Province lots for coffee, and those in in the North-western Province for cocoanuts, the remaining 3,000 range from quarter of an acre to six acres or so in area.

The agronomical map for the International Exhibition was the production of native draftsmen, at the cost of about 200*l.* It has been handed over to the Statistical Department of the War Office, which has the charge of all maps, foreign or colonial, that can be collected, and where, no doubt, it will be turned to more utility than if restored to Ceylon.

A large section of the drawing department is devoted to the preparation of title deed plans. These are drawn in triplicate; and as last year 2,540 sets, covering 21,558 acres, were furnished to the Government, it follows that no less than 7,620 plans of this description were issued by this office, absorbing the labour of 14 draftsmen.

It is these plans which really show the progress of the property survey; and from the method by which they are accurately defined on the ground, in connection with trigonometrical points, all the surveys made since 1856 are fit for any land registration scheme, should such be ever inaugurated, As I have already had the honour to report, 49,614 properties in the Western, Central, and Eastern Provinces might be forthwith placed in the hands of registrars, a large number with clear titles, and the rest in an advanced state for adjudication, so far as surveys and the collection of full local information, can make them.

Having now detailed the history of the survey operations, both in field and office, it remains for me to advert to the general state of the department.

Twenty-three surveyors were employed in the field, and 38 draftsmen, computers, registrars in office, making altogether 61 in number, and the cost, including every item, was 17,883*l.* If against this expenditure be placed the receipts from the sales and fees, which amount to 45,300*l.*, a balance of revenue is the result of 27,417*l.*; a larger surplus than has ever appeared, 10,000*l.* of which are due to the greatly augmented value of lands in the Central Province. As the total number of acres alienated from the Crown lands in 1862 was 25,302, it follows that the Government, after defraying the entire expense of the Survey Department, by whose exertions a property map of the chief districts of the Island is in process of compilation, reaps, in addition, rather more than 1*l.* for every acre sold, granted, or dealt with as an encroachment.

It may be interesting here to note how far the survey operations repay the cost of the establishment, independent of the value received from Crown lands, giving it credit only for the sums received from fees and encroachments, &c. I include encroachments because it is manifest that encroached lands, if not discovered by the surveyor, and placed for settlement in the hands of the Government Agents, with all particulars, would after 30 years, according to the Ordinance, become the property of the successful squatters.

Taking then the gross expenditure at 17,883*l.*, and omitting cost of such special services as railway survey 1,005*l.*, survey of temple lands 616*l.*, Mr. Saunders' half salary 140*l.*, and for the town inspector's salary 150*l.*, we have an outlay of 15,972*l.*, against the receipt of 10,125*l.* But it should be observed, on the other hand, that it is only in two Provinces, the Western and Eastern, where encroachments and grants are dealt with at present on anything like a large scale. In the Central the difficulty of proving native encroachments is almost insuperable, from the absence in general of any documentary title, and the peculiarity of the land tenures.

But as an instance that these sources, when dealt with, more than repay the cost of survey, I will quote the results of the operations in the Allootcoor Korle. During four years 25,000 acres (including 4,100 acres of Crown land) were surveyed for 3,800*l.*, and the sum of 7,500*l.* has already accrued from the encroachments and fees, without reckoning on a large area that yet remains for settlement.

I look upon this as a point of great consequence, inasmuch as it shows that for covering the expenses in future of this department the Government need not look solely to the sales of the forests in the interior, more especially if a scheme of registration of land is instituted, when necessarily every property throughout the Island will come under revision, for the purpose of settlement, similar to that now in practice in the Western Province.

No criterion is afforded of the extent of the general demand for the acquisition of lands by means of the applications made to the cutcherries. It is proved, partly by them, but principally by

CEYLON.

the statistical returns, that it is the presence of the surveyor on any spot that causes the requisitions for surveys. While in four years 48,800 acres were applied for in the official manner, 79,500 acres have been actually sold (independent of all encroachment, &c. settled). The difference of 31,000 acres may be referred to the active exertions of the surveyors, and the desire that actuates them "to show a good book at the end of the year."

In support of this I may quote as an example the case of the Kurnegalle and Dambool road. Wishing to have this road inserted in the record map, I directed one of my native assistants to traverse it, and survey such applications as might be made to him, on or near the road side; and no less than 69 lots containing 221 acres have been the consequence, and this on a road where I should have thought half a dozen rather a marvel.

I cannot close this report of the state of the department without referring to the health of its officers. In most other departments of the Government, whenever sickness or leave causes absence, some substitute can be provided, or at least the routine work can be carried on; but if a surveyor is absent from any reason, the work he is engaged in necessarily comes to a standstill, from the very nature of his employment, which is all personal labour. On the whole the health of the field men has been good, with the exception of three assistants. One has gone home for the third time on sick-leave, after the long career of 19 years; a second has unfortunately had his eyesight so seriously impaired from exposure to the sun, that he has been ordered to Europe; and a third has, from a severe fall at dusk over rocks, so injured his knee that it is doubtful if he can ever resume his duties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. SIM.

Enclosure 4. in No. 22.

CENTRAL SCHOOL COMMISSION.—REPORT.

The Central School Commission beg leave to submit to the Legislative Council the following report of their proceedings during the past year (July 1, 1861,—June 30, 1862).

2. The consideration of applications for grants-in-aid, and of various points in connexion with the rules under which those grants are administered, has occupied a great portion of the time of the Commission during the past year.

3. As stated in the seventh paragraph of the last report, it was determined to extend to all schools (including those conducted on behalf of the Commission, by the missionary bodies at Jaffna), the rules relating to religious instruction as laid down in the rules for grants-in-aid of 5th February 1861.

4. Every effort was made by those interested in missionary undertakings in Jaffna to induce the Commission to except the Jaffna schools from these regulations, which, in their opinion, it was their bounden duty to maintain in accordance with the terms of their constitution, as laid down in the Minute of Government of 26th May 1841.

5. The correspondence which is given in the Appendix* will place the Council in possession of the views entertained on this subject by the missionaries of the Northern Province, on the one hand, and the grounds on which the Commission, on the other, felt unable to concur in those views.

6. The negotiations on this subject resulted in a continuance of the relations subsisting between the Commission and the Roman Catholic and the Wesleyan Missions, and a severance of those subsisting between the Commission and the Church Missions at Jaffna.

7. The Commission regretted that this connexion, which had existed for 18 years, should be thus brought to an end; but they are glad to find that the discontinuance of the Government grant will not affect the principal school, the Chundicully Seminary, conducted by that mission at Jaffna, which, they understand, will be carried on by the aid of funds supplied by the parent society in England.

8. The principles on which it is the wish of the Commission that the schools in Jaffna, now aided by Government grants, should be conducted, will appear on reference to the letter, which will be found in the Appendix, addressed to the Acting Inspector of Schools, when about to proceed on a tour of inspection in the Northern Province.

9. A schedule of the grants made to private and other schools is given in the Appendix. The total amount now given under this head is 746*l.* 10*s.* (exclusive of grants for books, maps, furniture, &c.) This sum will possibly be increased before the end of the year, by the sanction of applications for aid which are now under consideration.

10. The Commission will now proceed to give an account of their labours in connexion with the Government schools in the Island. Of these the Colombo Academy (with the connected institution, Queen's College,) claims the first notice.

11. The result of the last examination in connexion with the University of Calcutta was as follows:—At the first examination in Arts, one candidate from Queen's College presented himself, and passed; for the entrance examination, 12 candidates were prepared at the Academy, of whom seven passed.

12. The number of pupils attending the Academy continues to increase. To meet this increase his Excellency the Governor was pleased, on the recommendation of the Commission, to apply to the Secretary of State to appoint a graduate of one of the English universities as an assistant master in the Academy. The Commission have received information of the appointment of Mr. George Stewart, M.A., of Christ Church, Oxford.

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* The Appendices to this Report are not printed.

13. The reports of the Acting Inspector of Schools give full information as to the state of the central, elementary, and mixed schools throughout the Island.

14. The state of the Kandy Central School has appeared to the Commission to call for great and radical improvement. To effect this, application has been made to the Secretary of State to appoint a trained English teacher to take charge of this school, and Mr. Stephen Tanswell Taylor has been appointed accordingly.

15. Miss Paltridge has been appointed principal teacher of the Colombo Girls' School, of which she had for some time had temporary charge.

16. The Kandy Girls' School has been placed under the charge of Mrs. Edleston, during the temporary absence of Miss Tate, who has been compelled by ill-health to return to England.

17. It is highly satisfactory to find that the vernacular schools in the Western Province show signs of permanent improvement.

18. Since the date of the last report, the following schools have been opened:—A vernacular girls' school at Katukurunda; mixed girls' school at Negombo and Matelle; a vernacular boys' school at Pantura; and a mixed boys' school at Gomegoda in Lower Dumbara.

19. And since the same date the vernacular schools at Pantiya, Paranagama, Palugama, Kumbalwela Palata, Passara, Dumaladeniya, Calpentyn, and Odepancare have been closed, as they did not realize the expectations of the Commission.

20. The report of the examiners for the mathematical prize will be found in the Appendix. The mathematical prize for this year has been gained by Mr. S. Nevins, of Jaffna.

21. The Commission regret to find that there will be no candidates this year for the Turnour prize.

22. The junior Queen's scholarship has been awarded, in accordance with the report of the examiners, to Mr. Frances Beven, of the Colombo Academy. It has not been in the power of the Commission to award the senior Queen's scholarship, as none of the Ceylon candidates at the last examination for entrance into the university of Calcutta succeeded in obtaining a place in the first division.

23. The Honourable R. T. Pennefather has been nominated by his Excellency the Governor an additional member of the Central School Commission; and the nomination has been accepted by the Commission, as required by the Minute of 27th March 1841.

24. On the 31st of December 1861 there were 106 Government schools in operation, which had on their rolls at that date 5,807 pupils, with an average daily attendance for the year 1861 of 4,549 pupils. At the close of the year 1860 there were 5,679 pupils, with an average daily attendance of 4,484.

25. It will be observed that the increase in the number of pupils attending the Government schools is only nominal; and the Commission regret to find that the returns of the whole Island show a decrease of 1,037 in 1861, as compared with 1860, the number of pupils attending school in 1861 being 27,914, and in 1860 28,951.

The Commission are unable to arrive at any conclusion as to the probable cause of the decrease, which, though not large, has attracted their attention, from the fact that the returns from 1855 to 1860 show, year by year, a steady increase in the number of pupils, such increase being in 1860, as compared with 1859, no less than 3,823.

26. The per-centage of scholars who have attended the same Government school, to the whole number of scholars on the books at the close of 1861, is as follows:—

Less than One Year.	One Year, and less than Two Years.	Two Years, and less than Three Years.	Three Years, and less than Four Years.	Four Years, and less than Five Years.	Five Years and upwards.
36·08	23·62	18·78	10·40	6·28	4·84

27. The following table shows the per-centage of children of the different ages from "under five" to "over fifteen" in the several classes of schools:—

Schools.	Under Five.	Between Five and Six.	Between Six and Seven.	Between Seven and Eight.	Between Eight and Nine.	Between Nine and Ten.	Between Ten and Eleven.	Between Eleven and Twelve.	Between Twelve and Thirteen.	Between Thirteen and Fourteen.	Between Fourteen and Fifteen.	Over Fifteen.
Colombo Academy -	,,	,,	·29	1·73	2·89	4·35	7·83	9·56	14·49	10·43	13·3	35·07
Superior Schools -	,,	,,	1·41	2·83	3·54	7·80	7·80	5·67	11·34	9·22	11·34	39·00
EnglishSchools	,,	,,	1·03	4·29	6·95	8·43	14·49	7·69	15·38	13·46	9·02	19·23
Mixed Schools	·50	·69	1·70	3·71	6·23	6·49	11·02	9·83	13·80	11·40	8·12	26·46
Vernacular Schools -	·09	1·38	4·49	9·51	14·10	11·57	16·12	12·72	12·38	6·74	4·73	6·12
Superior Girls' Schools -	1·19	5·07	6·56	8·06	10·44	12·83	12·24	12·53	10·74	9·25	6·86	4·18
Mixed Girls' Schools -	3·25	10·06	13·02	12·13	10·65	13·61	6·51	7·69	10·06	3·25	5·62	4·14
Vernacular Girls' Schools	2·06	9·05	12·75	12·75	14·40	17·28	10·29	12·34	2·06	5·76	·82	·41
Total -	·52	1·96	3·96	6·87	9·77	9·72	12·79	10·65	12·56	9·	6·86	15·34

CEYLON.

28. Financial and statistical returns, similar to those appended to the last report, will be found in the Appendices. To these has been added a return showing the nation and religion of the pupils attending schools aided by Government

29. The expenditure on account of education in 1861 amounted to 14,306*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.*, showing an increase of 941*l.* 9*s.* 10¼*d.* as compared with 1860, when the expenditure was 13,365*l.* 2*s.* 4¼*d.*

30. The following statement will show the amount voted, and the amount expended, on account of education, in each of the last five years:—

Years.	Voted.	Expended.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1857	11,347 11 8	9,275 18 5
1858	11,409 5 0	10,318 9 6½
1859	14,062 4 8	12,723 9 11½
1860	14,700 18 5	13,365 2 4¼
1861	16,475 6 8	14,306 12 2½

31. The sum of 16,674*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* has been voted for the current year, and the educational estimate for 1863 amounts to 16,063*l.* 17*s.*

32. The amount realized by school fees in 1859 was 1,691*l.* 10*s.* 8¾*d.*; in 1860, 1,997*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*; and in 1861, 2,054*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, to which must be added 95*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, being receipts on account of stationery, showing an increase in the receipts from schools in 1861 as compared with 1860 of 152*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*, and as compared with 1859 of 458*l.* 4*s.* 10¼*d.*

33. The thanks of the School Commission are due to the Government for the notification which appeared in the Government Gazette of the 30th November last, instituting "Local Examinations." The notification and the regulations framed accordingly by the School Commission are given in the Appendix.

34. The thanks of the Commission are also due to the Government for the favourable reception which has been accorded to their representations of the disadvantages under which the teachers of this department labour as regards pension, in consequence of the omission of the Educational Establishment from the Ordinance No. 1. of 1858.

35. During the past year the Commission have revised the courses of instruction in the Government schools. The result of their labours will appear on reference to the prescribed courses which will be found in the Appendix.

36. But while the Commission have been thus occupied during the past year, in endeavours to provide for the people of this Colony a better and a sounder education, they have been unable to divest themselves of the conviction that very little has been done towards providing for the real education of the people, notwithstanding the large annual increase in the grants for education, which already swallow up a larger proportion of the revenues of the Colony than that which the educational votes in England and India bear to the revenues of those countries respectively. And the reports of the inspector, on applications for grants in aid, preclude the hope that an extension of the system of grants-in-aid will provide for this want.

Colombo, 30th June 1862.

Enclosure 5 in No. 22.

SIR, Government Agent's Office, Colombo, April 14, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my annual report for the year 1862.

Copies of the reports of the assistant agents of Kaigalle and Ratnapoora are also enclosed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES P. LAYARD,
Government Agent.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION REPORT of GOVERNMENT AGENT of COLOMBO for 1862.

Revenue.

The revenue of the year ending December 31 compares favourably with that of the year 1861, showing an increase of 2,708*l.* 12*s.* 10¼*d.*, notwithstanding a diminution in the land sales of 4,516*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, owing to the reduction of the establishment, and the limitation of the operations of the Surveyor General's Department almost entirely to parochial surveys.

The compensatory sources of revenue have been principally from grain, 4,818*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*, and licences 1,936*l.* 1*s.*

Paddy Crops.—Arrack.

The crops of both the maha and yalle harvests were above the average, and an impulse was given to the competition for the arrack farms by the price of the spirit, which had ranged from 12*l.* to 8*l.* during many years, falling as low as 6*l.* 10*s.* for the leaguer of 150 gallons in 1862.

The 300 distilleries licensed during the year yielded 360,000 gallons for home consumption and for exportation.

Plumbago.

Royalty derived from working 241 mines on Crown lands realized 469*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*, 1*l.* 5*s.* having been the sum realized from plumbago in 1855.

Gun and Carriers Licences.

There were 326 fewer guns and 400 fewer carts registered in 1862 than in 1861, which I attribute to the discontinuance of the practice of registering guns and carts in circuit, which became necessary on the withdrawal of the travelling allowance of a clerk. The facilities of evading these duties in the rural districts can only be effectually checked on the spot.

The increasing evasion of the duties in towns by a large portion of the traffic being carried on by mercantile firms in their own carts was brought to the notice of Government by my letter, No. 197., of 6th April 1861. It is notorious that the size of these private carts, and the great weights they carry, are more destructive of the highways on which they are employed than any of the ordinary kinds of hired conveyances which are at present taxed for their upkeep.

Season.

A remarkable distribution of the rains over the entire year, instead of being, as usual, periodical, has been characteristic of the past twelve months. The change, could it have been anticipated, might have proved of the greatest possible benefit to the agricultural interests of the country; as it was, the preparations for the cultivation of paddy lands were made as for ordinary seasons, and, except in respect of high lands, small advantage was taken from circumstances favourable to an increased production. The cheynas of the Cina and Hapitigam Korles, an unprecedented occurrence, were reaped, and yielded abundant maha crops in December, two months before the ell paddy ordinarily attains maturity, and enabled the year 1862 to appropriate profits more properly belonging to 1863.

Cocoanuts.

Not less than 2,000 acres it is probable of forest land purchased by natives from Government during the past year were planted with cocoanuts, under favour of the weather, a large portion of which, lying on the banks of the Maha Oya, besides giving employment, will restore health and comfort to the people of that fever stricken region.

Tobacco.

The cultivation of tobacco in the Alloot Coor Kole yields annually about 300,000 lbs., about 900 acres being the extent cultivated, and the market price ranging from 26*l.* to 28*l.* per candy of 560 lbs.

Health.

The sanitary condition of the Province during the year has been on the whole satisfactory. But some isolated cases of cholera, and 187 cases of small-pox in the district of Caltura, and 1,191 cases in Colombo, have been reported, and 148 deaths among the latter.

The crowding together of the native inhabitants of the towns, and the difficulty of overcoming the scruples of the Mahommedan portion of the inhabitants to vaccination, appear to be the principal causes of the frequent reappearance of small-pox as an epidemic. The Board of Health despair of all remedy until vaccination is made compulsory.

Population.

The population, from the closest approximation to a census we possess, that afforded by the householders returns obtained under the Road Ordinance, is smaller than has been supposed, but the disproportion of the sexes, always suspected, has not been sensibly reduced.

The annexed statement, which does not include the migratory classes and Malabar coolies, shows the relative number of males and females to be 304,088 and 256,508, and the aggregate population only 560,596.

Condition of the People.

There never was a period, however, in the history of Ceylon in which the inhabitants were more prosperous, and in possession of greater personal and social advantages. Their progress in wealth and intelligence is perceptible in the extension of their landed properties, and in the construction of handsome dwelling houses, not a few of which are furnished with the choicest European comforts.

Schools.

Meanwhile about 60 Government schools and numerous missionary institutions are affording the means of moral and religious education to those willing to avail themselves of them.

In the remoter districts the Budhist priests replace both Government and missionary efforts.

Road Ordinance Funds.

The funds levied under the Thoroughfares Ordinance amounted to 13,209*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*

The lateness of period at which the Ordinance was passed in 1861, and the necessity of conforming strictly to its provisions, prevented the whole of the commutation being collected within the three

CEYLON.

first months of the following year, and the arrears, owing to the novelty of the mode prescribed for their recovery, and the insufficiency of officers in the department of the police magistrates and fiscal, to carry out the duty, are still considerable. A remedy, however, has been suggested, by which the division officers themselves can be appointed process-servers for the purposes of the Road Ordinance when required, and it is not probable that any future obstacle to regularity will arise, or that the present arrears will remain much longer outstanding.

The contribution to the several principal roads was as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Roads within the gravets of Colombo	835	17	6
Do. from Colombo to Kandy	1,089	13	6
Do. do. to Galle	544	10	0
Do. do. to Avisawelle	348	8	3
Do. from Negombo to Geroella	195	15	0
Do. do. to Veyangodde	228	9	9
Do. from Avisawelle to Karewne Elle	159	8	3
Do. do to Pelmadulla	457	10	9
Do. from Pelmadulla to Gorokundere	504	4	6
Do. do. to Rakwane	146	2	9
Do. from Balapane to Yatteantotte	61	8	6
Do. from Colombo to Cottah	113	10	3
Do. do. to Topoe	203	14	9
Branch roads in Negombo	50	12	6
Canal from Colombo to Kaymel	707	12	6
Do. to Cultura	492	10	6
	£6,139	9	3

and no less than 468 miles of minor roads have benefited by an appropriation to them of 1,871*l.* 1*s.* 10½*d.*, exclusive of balances of past years.

Roads.

The state of the public communications generally was satisfactory.

The unusual weather, to which allusion has been made, as well as the heavy traffic on the Kandy road, rendered it difficult for the department of the Commissioner of Roads to preserve it in its normal excellent order. The consequent inconvenience, the subject of loud public complaints, it is expected, will prove only temporary, and before the lapse of many months be entirely remedied.

The road from Ballapaum to to Ruanwelle, commenced in 1840, has not yet been completed. The connexion of the three and four Korles and the Kandy and Ambegamoa roads by this great branch is a matter of the highest importance, as when the railroad is finished it would contribute largely to its support. I have to urge upon Government the often-repeated recommendation of the District and Provincial Road Committees, that this work should engage their earliest attention.

Ruanwelle -	£147
Avandere -	22
	£169

There is a toll levied on this road, at present realizing 169*l.* per annum, which might be trebled were the several streams, which are an impediment to the use of carriages properly bridged, as, with the exception of the Kaluganga above Ruanwelle, they might easily be, at a very moderate cost.

The completion of the Pelmadulla road, from Openaike to Balangodde, has been a boon for which the people of Saffragam will ever be grateful, and which cannot fail, when extended to the limits of Ouvah, to benefit the coffee planters of that district, also, by enabling them very generally to convey the produce of their estates by a more direct than the present circuitous route by Nuwvera Ellia and Kandy to Colombo.

The road from Oetvankandy to Dolosbagey has been rendered practicable for carts during the year, and is very useful.

The wisdom of the maxim which guided the administration of the late Sir Henry Ward, that conferring material advantages on a semi-civilized country must prepare the way for its advancement in every other respect, has not received a better vindication than the result of his measure for extending the means of communication, and for facilitating agricultural operations, by the introduction of the Paddy Lands Irrigation Ordinance.

The stimulus to industry arising from both these sources is already influencing the character of the people in an unmistakeable manner, and may be witnessed any day in the spread of the commercial spirit, the accumulation of wealth, and in the appreciation of education, as a means of obtaining it.

In the Colombo district alone numerous works have been executed, with and without the aid of Government, which could not have been undertaken before the passing of the Irrigation Ordinance, several of which are not only rewarding the enterprize of village communities, but contribute to the public resources.

But there are works too large to be undertaken under the Irrigation Ordinance, and for which the joint action of small communities would be insufficient, which in the present prosperous state of the Island the Government might reasonably be expected to carry out (ex. gra.)

The Muturagawelle, occupying the space between the Kalany Ganga at Mutual and the southern bank of the Negombo Lake, about 16 square miles, require to be reclaimed.

Much money has been expended by the successive Governments of Ceylon on this work, which has been suspended from time to time, either for want of means or intestine commotions, but it remains unfinished notwithstanding its importance, both as regards the extension of cultivation, or augmentation of the salubrity of the neighbourhood; and the restoration of the Muleriawe embankment on the Kalany Ganga, which, together with a relieving canal on the side of the Galle road, just beyond the limits of the town of Colombo, would be the means of recovering 40,000 acres, now so constantly submerged that the people of Cottah, Nawelle, Kirillepenne and other populous villages in the Hewagam and Salpitty Korles, after the greatest sacrifices, seldom reap from them a remunerative crop.

A most interesting and valuable report by eminent Dutch engineers is to be found among the records of the Colonial Office, with a translation by Mr. Lee, which deserves consideration in connexion with the latter proposal, and might be referred with advantage to the Surveyor General, an able officer of whose department, Mr. Park, has been long employed in surveying the surrounding district, and is quite competent to test the correctness of the statements and suggestions therein made.

About 1,500 acres of ground within the limits of the Marandahn cinnamon plantation, now utterly useless and unsaleable, would share in the benefits this scheme of drainage is represented as capable of affording.

The transactions in land sales during the past year show the following results:—

	Lots.	Extents.	Amount realized.
	No.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Crown lands sold - - - -	645	4,313 3 20	7,028 7 7
Lands sold at half their improved value - -	190	712 3 26	870 17 8
Lands disposed of under Minute of 8th August 1844	267	2,055 3 13	630 3 11
Lands in respect of which certificates against the Crown are to be issued - - - -	1,165	3,069 1 27	—
Total - - - -	2,267	10,152 0 6	6,529 9 2

The decrease, in comparison with the sales in former years, has been already accounted for.

The settlement of native claims which has been promoted by the parochial surveys has been one of the most gratifying, though by the people least appreciated, duties of the Government Agent. The scrutiny into private titles is very jealously regarded, as the object is supposed to be rather the ascertainment and recovery of encroachments, which are by no means inconsiderable, on Crown rights, than any disinterested purpose of substituting legitimate possession on easy terms for irregular and precarious occupation.

The demoralizing consequence of having withheld from the people till recent years the means of honestly acquiring property in land cannot be imagined by any one who has not had the opportunity of witnessing the manner in which the possession and retention of encroachments are sought to be justified and effected.

The number of settlements, which was 1,165 in the past year, might be indefinitely increased for several years to come were an additional assistant attached to this office, and an additional clerk to the land department. A week in every month is given up entirely to settlements and land sales, and an extra clerk has been the only accession to the strength of the establishment since 1850, when the return of the land sales might have been represented as nil, and the general revenue of the Province was 47 per cent. less than at present, although, in the same interval, a system of volunteer clerks, which withdrew at once 12 hands from the cutcherry, and two junior clerkships, have been abolished.

As the cost of the collection of revenue and the general administration of the Province does not exceed 5¼ per cent. of the amount collected, I submit respectfully that the time has arrived when not only the needed augmentation of the office establishment might be made, but salaries might be granted to the inferior Korle headmen, with the certainty that the proportion between the expenditure and income would only be favourably affected thereby. At the risk of being deemed importunate I beg to draw attention to the representations contained in my letters as per margin, that the gratuitous services of headmen are more injurious than beneficial to the public interests, and that there is really no economy in not paying them, as they pay themselves at present to an extent it would be difficult to appreciate, while I believe that in the very first year of the experiment there would be more money obtained from the minor sources of revenue principally dependent on the zeal of headmen than would be necessary to purchase it.

The Government has at this moment under consideration the exemption of the petty headmen of the Kaigalle and Ratnapoora districts from taxation of their paddy lands. I have noticed on another occasion that there is inherent in that system of compensation an evil of its own. I have now to remark, that, besides being a retrograde movement, the partial exemption of the headmen of this Province would be looked upon as a grievance by those who do not share the privilege, and are just as much entitled to it, however inconvenient it might be to make the exemption general.

The people of the four Korles and Saffragam are much more lightly taxed in respect of grain than the people of the maritime districts, who commonly pay $\frac{1}{10}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the crops, while the former pay only $\frac{1}{14}$, and the temptations to fail in their duty to which headmen are exposed are

CEYLON.

consequently much greater in the maritime districts, as it would not be desirable to place them at any disadvantage with their neighbours.

The only safe course would be to pay them all, a system which, introduced in this Province, might pave the way to its introduction in others, as soon as the state of the local revenues admitted of.

The exemption from tax in the Central and North-western Provinces, and the commission on grain allowed to head men in the Northern Province, would prevent for a time any reasonable complaint that the first steps towards an improvement in the condition of the headmen generally were taken here.

The reports of the assistant agents of Kaigalle and Ratnapoora, the latter of which was delayed till the 28th ultimo, are herewith forwarded.

The successful introduction of the Kandyan Marriage Ordinance into the Saffragam district is a very gratifying fact.

The smaller interest taken in the measure in the three and four Korles might have been anticipated, from the nonparticipation of the people in the first instance in the application to Government for the enactment of the new law, and their perfect contentment with their own customs, which, by a contagion of manners, have preserved, even in the maritime divisions bordering on the four Korles, during nearly four centuries of European domination.

In the Hapitigam Korle belonging to Colombo, and subject to the Regulation No. 9. of 1822, and the operation of the Roman Dutch Law, only 37 marriages were registered among a population of 18,000 souls between 1822 and 1851, and with increased facilities for registration afforded in the latter year only 286 have been registered since that period.

I think the assistant agent of Kaigalle is mistaken in his impression that polyandry has nearly disappeared with the abolition of compulsory labour. It exists largely both within and beyond his district, and will scarcely terminate until the people are induced to live in communities, instead of in detached families, occupying isolated dwellings in hills and in jungles, and until the disproportion of the sexes, invariably observed in countries where polyandry prevails, and which seems almost to excuse the practice, is corrected under the influence of civilization and good laws.

While polyandry is, however, the practice of the majority of the inhabitants who are extremely poor, it must be admitted that polygamy is occasionally practised by the rich, and there can be little doubt that the passing of the Ordinance No. 13. of 1859 will prove, if not an immediate remedy, the means of gradually extinguishing both evils.

I take this opportunity to bring to the notice of Government the great disappointment felt, and expressed by the classes affected by the Regulation No. 9. of 1822, that the amendment of that law, as contemplated in the last sessions of the Legislative Council, and recommended by a sub-committee of that Council, has been suspended.

(Signed) CHARLES P. LAYARD,
Government Agent.

Enclosure 6. in No. 22.

Jaffna Kutcherry, April 27, 1863.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the annual report required of me for 1862.

Because this is the first report of the kind that I have made, and because, as it seemed to me, no just conclusions could be founded on a comparison limited to the years 1861 and 1862, I have, as regards those subjects to which these observations apply, taken as my starting point the date to which the statements appended to my letter to the Secretary of State of the 16th January 1858, Appendix F.* to the report of the select committee of the Legislative Council on the fixed establishments of the Northern Province, extend, those statements, as regards the particular subjects referred to, being in fact of the like character as this report.

I ask attention in particular to the increase in the revenue

It is true that though the amount of the revenue is so satisfactory, as compared with that of former years, yet its actual amount, considered abstractedly is small, but I can never omit, on occasions like this, to remind the Government that the comparatively backward condition of the Jaffna district is the direct consequence of the measures of Government in respect to its staple trade of tobacco.

Nor can I refrain from noticing, on this the first occasion of my furnishing an annual report, that while the professed object of the Government in having recourse to the measures referred to was the benefit of the people of this district, no part of the very large profit derived by the Government for many years from the adoption of those measures, at the expense of the ruin of the interests of this district, was applied either to the remission of taxation within it, which might have assisted its people to bear up against the ruinous effects to them of the Government measures, or to the prosecution of public works within the district, one or other of which measures would seem to have been the natural application of those large profits, which, as professed, the Government of that day, acting in the interests of the people of this district, was compelled reluctantly to receive.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary. (Signed) P. A. DYKE.

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* The Appendix to this Report is not printed.

Annual Report for the year 1862.*

The total revenue, with the exception of that from the pearl fishery, in each of the six years ending with 1856, and that of each of the six years ending with 1862, was as follows .—

	£		£
1851	40,473	1857	37,101
1852	32,987	1858	41,080
1853	33,296	1859	44,383
1854	32,180	1860	45,393
1855	39,714	1861	46,947
1856	35,612	1862	47,580

	£
The average of the former period is	35,710
That of the latter	43,747
The increase in the latter period	8,037

equal to 22½ per cent., which is almost exactly the rate of increase in the 12 years ending with 1856 as compared with the 11 ending with 1844.

I have used the word "revenue" above in its ordinary acceptation, but it appears to me that it is much to be regretted that in statements of this kind the receipts under the Thoroughfares Ordinance should not be included, as for the statistical purpose of showing what is levied from the people it is necessary that they should be shown.

To admit of a correct judgment being formed of the prosperity or otherwise of a Province by the test of its revenue, it is necessary that certain adjustments should also be made, to exclude receipts which are purely accidental, and totally unconnected with the condition of the Province. These are the receipts for salt sold for export to other parts of the Island and beyond sea. The sums so excluded are shown in the margin, and the great fluctuation in them must show how false conclusions drawn from statements including them must be.

	£
1857	370
1858	2,205
1859	378
1860	2,670
1861	2,342
1862	176

The following is a table of the revenue with these adjustments:—

	Revenue exclusive of Salt for Export.	Receipts under Thoroughfares Ordinance.	Total.
	£	£	£
1857	36,731	4,993	41,724
1858	38,875	5,050	43,925
1859	44,005	7,646 †	51,651
1860	42,723	8,018	50,714
1861	44,605	7,342	51,947
1862	47,404	7,359	54,763

This is a perfectly truthful bonâ fide statement of facts, and it shows in the first column an increase in five years of over 11,000*l.*, or 29 per cent., and in the last of over 13,000*l.*, or 31 per cent.; about 2,000*l.* being on the receipts under the Thoroughfare Ordinance, and 11,000*l.* on all other heads.

The following is a condensed abstract of the particulars of the receipts in the two years 1857 and 1862 :—

	1857.	1862.
	£	£
Grain	12,080	16,752
Customs	10,587	11,360
Thoroughfare Ordinance	4,993	7,359
Salt Monopoly	4,540	5,932
Arrack do.	3,285	4,951
Stamps	2,780	3,062
Tolls	648	1,078
Crown lands	196	912
Timber	704	725
Judicial receipts	546	639
Carriers	251	432
Postage	362	424
	40,972	53,626
All other items	752	1,137
	41,724	54,763

* The Appendix not printed.

† Rates of commutation raised.

CEYLON.

The increase under grain is attributable to the increase in the price of grain.

The revenue in the different districts was as follows:—

	Jaffna.	Manaar.	The Vanny.	Nuvenkalavia.
	£	£	£	£
1857	12,080	1,675	493	1,599
1858	15,165	2,404	610	1,660
1859	18,000	3,006	745	1,913
1860	14,735	1,817	667	1,653
1861	16,773	1,968	819	2,051
1862	16,752	2,206	779	1,476

The revenue in the Manaar and Vanny districts has been much benefited by the roads which have been opened and improved. Formerly there were great differences between the prices in the interior of the district and near the coast, but prices are now equalized.

	£
The average revenue of Manaar for the six years ending with 1856 was	1,254
For the six years ending 1862 it was	2,179
The average revenue of the Vanny for the former period was	401
And for the latter	685

The absence of material increase in the customs is shown under the head of "trade" to be the effect of the state of the tobacco trade.

The increase under "Thoroughfare Ordinance" is the effect of increase in the rates of commutation; namely,—

In the Jaffna districts	from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 8*d.*
In others	from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*

	£
The average under salt for the 6 years was	5,193
For the 6 preceding years it was	4,231
The increase of	962

is equal to nearly 23 per cent.

In connexion with tolls, the number of carts registered in 1857 was 627, in 1861, 1,023, being an increase of 396, equal to 63 per cent. in five years.

Since 1862 the alteration of the law as to the time of registering has afforded such facilities for the evasion of the law that the number has fallen off considerably.

As to the Crown lands, a surveyor was sent to the Province in the month of February 1861, after having been left for 14 years without one, notwithstanding my almost annual applications for one.

In this year the prospect as to sales was at first very promising, the lands put up selling readily, and at high prices. Subsequently there was a check to the sales, and lands put up were not bid for. The cause of this is not yet properly ascertained.

The other items seem not to require particular notice.

Grain Produce and Imports.

It has been the practice for some years past to make up statements to show this, for my information. When all the sales and other settlements of the grain revenue are concluded the probable produce is deduced from them.

These statements and the customs returns show the following:—

	Produce.	Import.	Total.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1857	1,731,445	637,343	2,368,788
1858	1,538,733	468,520	2,007,253
1859	1,713,954	625,782	2,339,736
1860	1,550,628	570,958	2,121,586
1861	1,592,561	628,255	2,220,816
1862	1,577,972	664,072	2,242,044

In this statement all descriptions of dry grain are included, and each bushel of rice is reckoned as two of raw grain.

The statement, however, does not include the large district of Nuwere Kalawia, for which I have never yet been able to obtain such information, though I have urged the matter of procuring it on the attention of several of the assistant agents.

The fact of the increase in the proportionate import of rice is of some interest. Formerly, very little rice was imported at Jaffna, the people being so poor that they preferred to buy the unmanufactured article, paddy, and convert it into rice themselves. The progressive increase in the import of rice seems to imply, either that a certain proportion of people find that they can employ themselves more profitably than in pounding paddy, or that their circumstances have so improved as to make them disregard the slight pecuniary advantage from doing so. The quantities in the six years were as follows:—

1857	37,412
1858	28,172
1859	26,866
1860	31,816
1861	43,960
1862	62,000

The following is a statement of the produce for the three districts:—

	Jaffna.	Manaar.	The Vanny.
1857	1,388,868	253,030	89,547
1858	1,234,495	225,157	79,081
1859	1,294,369	330,193	89,392
1860	1,233,232	233,689	83,707
1861	1,239,460	250,216	102,885
1862	1,230,157	255,489	92,326

The dry grain produced in the Jaffna district is almost entirely by irrigation from wells; and as that cultivation is such a peculiar feature of the country, it occurs to me to show for the Jaffna district the produce of paddy and of dry grain separately, as follows:—

	Paddy.	Dry Grain.
1857	970,246	418,622
1858	878,727	355,768
1859	857,447	436,922
1860	881,522	351,710
1861	912,343	327,117
1862	884,965	345,192

This statement of the particulars exhibits much more of variation between the different years than the statement of the totals shows.

This is, I believe, in a great measure the effect of a cause I have indicated before in remarks on statements of sales of rents, namely, that the weather most favourable to one kind of produce is not so to the other, and so, between the two, a general average is brought out.

Trade.

It is well known that the staple article of produce and trade is tobacco, and to those who have given any attention to the subject, that the trade has never recovered from the injurious effects of the measures of Government in making the trade a Government monopoly from 1812 to 1823.

Notwithstanding, however, the extensive influence the depressed state of this trade has in retarding advance in general prosperity, the whole value of the trade of the Province continues to increase.

	£
In the 6 years ending with 1856 the average was	221,185
In the 6 do. do. 1862 it was	318,392

being an increase of 97,207*l.*, equal to 43 per cent.

The increase in 1862 in particular was small, and though there was a material increase in the foreign, there was a correspondent falling off in the coastwise trade.

The amounts in each of the last six years were as follows:—

	£
1857	255,666
1858	276,464
1859	340,748
1860	338,803
1861	318,905
1862	319,680

Early in 1861 a representation was made by his Excellency the Governor to the Secretary of State, and subsequently by his Grace to the Secretary for India, by whom a report was called for from the

CEYLON. Madras Government on the subject of the monopoly, in the state of Travancore, of the trade in tobacco, but I have not as yet been informed of the ultimate result of this attempt to get that, the chief market for it opened to the tobacco trade of this Province.

I am confident that were the existing restrictions on the tobacco trade removed there would be a considerable and rapid advance in the general trade.

As peculiar to this Province, and as calculated, perhaps, to excite some interest, I may notice the export of elephants.

	No.	Value.	Average Value of each Elephant.
		£	£ s.
The average for the 5 years ending with 1857 was -	71	593	8 7
Do. do. 1862 -	326	3,150	9 13

The destruction of these animals in India in the mutinies, and the demand for them in railway works, have been mentioned to me as the causes of the increased demand for them, and the rise in their price.

This has been a source of considerable profit to the elephant catchers of the Manaar district.

Public Health.

There was not any thing remarkable as to this, except the prevalence of cholera for some months in a few places.

A sort of panic seems to have prevailed in a small section of the town called the Pettah, but the visitation was of a trifling character as compared with those of former years.

The deaths were as follows:—

The Jaffna district - - -	734
The Manaar do. - - -	141
The Nuwera Kalawia do. - -	20
Total - -	895

exclusive of immigrant coolies, of whom 222 died.

The Vanny or Mullativoe district was free of the disease, as it frequently is when Manaar is infected.

The disease is commonly introduced into that district and the district of Nuwera Kalavia by the immigrant coolies.

On the occasion referred to it was introduced into Jaffna from Colombo.

The following extract from the Appendix F. to the report on the fixed establishments, being a statement of mine, shows both the duration and mortality on occasion of former visitations of this epidemic:—

May 1845 to October 1846 - -	10,600 deaths.
March 1850 to December 1852 -	10,687 ,,
July 1852 to September 1855 -	13,753 ,,

Health of Cattle.

Until so near the close of the year that the matter will properly fall to be noticed in the report for 1863, there was not much murrain amongst the cattle of Jaffna, and, as to Nuwera Kalavia, the assistant agent reports that their health was "remarkably good." There was some disease, however, in the Manaar and Vanny districts.

But, although Jaffna was free from particular disease, there was a large destruction of cattle from the inclement weather of December. In the open flat country of this district, where the cattle are for the most part small and weakly, quantities of cattle are commonly starved to death on occasions of the prevalence of such weather for more than 24 hours, by the united effects of being kept from grazing sufficiently, and of the cold of the driving wind and rain.

Reports show the following losses, but I am afraid the reports are very defective:—

	Cattle.	Sheep and Goats.
Jaffna - - -	6,536	7,223
Manaar - -	553	—
Vanny - -	829	—
Nuwera Kalavia -	—	—
	7,918	7,223

The assistant agent of the Vanny notices in his report, that from May to August or September murrain was extensively prevalent amongst the wild pigs; and on my way from the Central road to Mullativoe I saw a number of the dead bodies close to the road side. And I may here mention as of possible interest, that while the extensive paddy district of Pooneryn on the south shore of the Jaffna lake used to be so infested with pigs as to have led the people to make repeated applications that a

wall should be built of some miles in length to keep them out, there was such an extensive murrain in 1842, that ever since to this time the number of these beasts resorting to the neighbourhood of the fields is inconsiderable.

The paddy tithe of Pooneryn is now commuted for 522*l.* a year.

Vaccination.

Consequent on some communication of mine to the Superintendent of Vaccination here, imparted by him to the Principal Civil Medical Officer, some attempts have been and are still being made to improve the organization for this service, with the view to securing larger and generally more satisfactory results; but the allowances of the vaccinators are too small to secure the services of proper persons, so that no great results can be expected from these attempts.

I am merely auxiliary in the matter. Small-pox was introduced in the month of January 1862, and continued to prevail to the end of the year, up to which there had been 217 cases admitted into hospital, amongst which there were only 28 deaths. It is understood that there are not any restrictions on the opposite continent on persons affected with small-pox going abroad, or, if there are any, that they are not enforced; and, considering the great resort of the people of this district to the continent, it is rather matter for surprise that small-pox is not always prevalent here.

In a report made in connexion with the Ordinance No. 10 of 1852, I showed, from detailed returns, that there was no perceptible difference in the number of persons attacked with small-pox who had been vaccinated and the number of those who had not been vaccinated. What vaccination really does here seems to be so to modify the disease as to make it in all but a very few cases very mild and tractable.

Crime.

The decrease of serious crime, often noticed before, continues, as shown in the statement appended of cases tried before the Supreme Court. The totals of that statement are as follows:—

	Number of serious cases.	Number of persons tried on those cases.
12 years ending 1831	260	886
12 years ending 1843	225	649
12 years ending 1855	100	309
6 years ending 1861	51	121

The Government receives returns from the magistrates and district judges as to minor offences, which I do not see; but, as Fiscal, I know that the number of prisoners committed to gaol is continually decreasing.

The principal cause now of the decrease of crime I believe to be the full employment of the people.

The peace of the country is now more disturbed by caste and class disputes than by anything else. The country is in a state of transition as to the relative position of persons, and offences arising out of this cause may be expected after a time to die out. It is, however, my opinion that in the meantime acts of oppression on the part of influential persons towards those who formerly occupied a degraded position, which they are now struggling to emerge from, ought to be punished with severity.

I have omitted to notice the matter of cattle stealing, not as prevailing in Nuwera Kalavia itself, but in the adjacent districts, where, according to Mr. Morris' representations, the offence is as generally prevalent as it was in 1849, when it engaged so much attention on the part of Government.

The following are extracts from Mr. Morris' report:—

"This crime, so long the bane of this district and of the North Western Province, where, unfortunately, beyond the limits of the Dambool jurisdiction, it prevails probably in as aggravated a degree as ever, may, I think, be considered to have entirely ceased in this district, as only one case is known to have occurred since May last, and in that a conviction was obtained. I have spared no pains to effect this, and attribute the entire cessation of the crime to the use of the lash, which, though never used by me for any other offence, is, I am satisfied, from my knowledge of the people, the only means of checking this crime. It is necessary, however, to show that it is a subject never lost sight of, and for this I have desired a system of supervision, as noted in my diary, in which I have also observed that the crime has a species of fascination which makes the absolute reform of cattle stealers almost hopeless. Cattle stealing would instantly break out with the least signs of relaxation; and the frightful state of insecurity and demoralization in parts of the North Western Province, where cattle are stolen in broad daylight, and where the cattle stealers boast of their exploits in the villages through which they pass, the inhabitants of which will never, through fear of the revenge of the gangs, give evidence against the members of them, cannot but operate as a chronic excitement and inducement to the resumption of the practice in Nuwera Kalavia."

My opinion, expressed in 1849, is, that a second conviction of this offence ought to entail transportation or banishment for life.

Circuits.

From the 26th June to the 4th July I was in attendance on his Excellency the Governor, on his return from Jaffna to Kandy, leaving his Excellency at Mihintalai, and I returned through the

CEYLON.

southern part of the Manaar Vanny, the north-east portion of the Nuwere Kalavia district, through the ancient tank Pathovie, by Mullativoe.

In the Manaar Vanny I attended partially to the usual business of circuits. In the Nuwere Kalawia districts I made myself acquainted with a small section of country I had not before been through, and at the station of Mullativoe I attended to the usual business of such visits.

I was much about the peninsula; but all my plans for further circuits of the assistant agents districts were entirely deranged by the necessity of awaiting in Jaffna the enforcement of the decision of Government as to the relations to subsist between the civil engineer and the Government Agent in respect to public works, without which enforcement I could not do what was required of me in respect to the Supply Ordinance.

And by the time I was released from this hamper on my movements, and had completed what was required of me, it was too late to go on such circuit. The year, therefore, was in a great measure lost as to this object, from the cause stated.

The usual circuits of the assistant agents were regularly made, excepting those of the assistant agent of Manaar, which were somewhat interfered with by the prevalence of cholera.

Circuit Courts.

In connexion with the matter of the circuits of the assistant agent of Manaar, I must again express my deep regret at the abolition of the practice of his holding court on circuit, and I beg respectfully to indicate that two of the objections assigned generally to the system of circuit courts, that it takes the magistrate away for a time from his station where he is accessible to all, to attend to the business of a section only of the district, and that it causes needless expense, are not applicable to this particular case, as the assistant agent does go on circuit, though he does not attend to judicial business, and the addition to the time of his absence, and the expense consequent on his attending to judicial business, is not appreciable.

Mr. Twyman writes on the subject as follows; and I beg leave most urgently to solicit that his Excellency the Governor will confer upon the people of the Manaar Vanny pattoos the boon of the restoration of the circuit courts:

Extract from Mr. Twynam's diary of the 20th September 1861:—

" It was with reference to the very large number of complaints of this nature which used to be made to me when on circuit, that I recommended the establishment of circuit courts in the Vanny.

" These courts have done an immense deal of good. They were just beginning to get into working order, and the business in them was increasing fast, showing how necessary they were. By orders received from Government they have now been discontinued, and the irregularities which they tended so much to check have again commenced.

" The people of the Vanny will put up with almost any amount of inconvenience rather than go to Manaar, as they have repeatedly told me, and they are consequently at the mercy of a set of vagabonds, the only check on whom was the establishment of these circuit courts, which have been the means of bringing many of them to book.

" Many of the people cannot understand why the assistant agent cannot enter into all their complaints regarding lands, debts, cattle seizures, &c.; and when referred to the court at Manaar say very truly:—' How can we go to Manaar, when we scarcely have the means of obtaining sufficient for our livelihood here? We should be ruined if we went to Manaar.'

" Such answers used constantly to be given to me, and are now again made to me on my referring complaints to the court at Manaar, in consequence of the discontinuance of the circuit courts.

" As assistant agent, I feel that in referring many of the parties to the Manaar court I in fact tell them there is no redress for them, as I know it is not possible for them to prosecute a case in the Manaar court.

" It would take a man one month's continued travelling backwards and forwards to prosecute a case in the Manaar court, supposing that there were no postponements at all. How, I ask, can a poor man stand this? Does it not in fact amount to a denial of justice.

" The circuit courts did not cost Government 50*l.* a year, as the only extra charges on account of them were the batta to the clerk and a peon, and at the very outside 12 days' extra travelling allowance to the assistant agent, who is obliged to make circuits twice a year on account of revenue duties; and with reference to this I have to remark, that the clerk was employed on revenue business as well as in the courts, and it will become necessary next year to send some one to do the duties hitherto performed by the clerk, as it will not be possible for the interpreter to attend to all matters connected with the paddy rents, &c. when the Kalapogam rents are sold.

" I have during the circuit disposed of all the cases pending from the last circuit, excepting two or three, which are now fixed to be tried in Manaar. No serious inconvenience has in consequence been felt on this occasion, and I sincerely hope and trust that orders will be received to again hold the circuit courts before the commencement of the first circuit of next year.

" If these courts be not again opened, it will become absolutely necessary for Government to take into consideration the matter of establishing a permanent court in the Vanny, somewhere near Vavonian Veaneolom. Any such court should be a district court as well as a police court and court of requests for the whole Vanny."

Public Works.

Matters in general in relation to the subject are in too complicated a state to admit of my entering on the general subject in this report. I am in a false position in respect to them, and that, as I feel, from no acts of mine.

I will confine myself, therefore, to the particular point of the mention in Sir Henry Ward's Minute of 5th April 1856, of the expressed views of Sir W. Molesworth on the subject of the union under one management of all the roads, principal and other than principal.

His Excellency the Governor is aware that practically through the operation of the arrangement made by the road committees here, for the civil engineer's provincial assistant being in charge of roads other than principal, this has been hitherto to a great extent been the fact here, and indeed it was in that connexion that Sir H. Ward noticed the subject. I desire on this occasion to record my opinion, that it is most desirable for the public interests, as connected with each class of works, that some system, such as indicated by Sir W. Molesworth, should be introduced, and my belief that it could be, without encroaching on that independence of action on the part of the commissioners in respect to works other than principal which is a principle of the Thoroughfare Ordinance.

Works for Public Objects executed by Individuals.

It used to be a practice of the Madras Government to publish in the Gazette lists of works of this kind of magnitude, with the names of the persons at whose cost they were executed, and the cost. This suggested to me to procure a return of all works, however trifling, executed by individuals of late years in the Jaffna district, for public convenience and accommodation, and detailed returns of particulars show that public maddams or native rest houses, and wells of different kinds, for the use of men and cattle, have been so constructed at a cost of 3,359*l.* 5*s.*

Immigration.

From the month of May 1862 the charge of the immigration vessels, and all relating thereto, has been imposed on this department. Mr. Twynam has always referred with satisfaction to the conduct of Mr. Reidy, the immediate superintendent of the service, acting under the assistant agents' instructions, and I have good reason to believe that the organization of the whole service by the assistant agent is very efficient.

On the requisition of Government, I made, early in the year, a full report of all requirements for the further accommodation of the coolies, both on the continent and on Ceylon; a series of misunderstandings followed, in respect to the buildings referred to in this report, and the result arrived at very recently, under express instructions, is the forwarding by the civil engineer and myself of estimates for a fractional portion of these; and even as to these I see very little prospect of their completion, from utter inadequacy of means to the object.

Some works for further provision of water on the line of road were also sanctioned. The acting assistant agent, Nuwere Kalavia, notices the matter as regards that district thus:—

"A sum of 195*l.* was granted late in the year for the construction of six wells on the central road, besides a moiety of 15*l.* towards the construction of a seventh on the Mihintalai. Owing, however, to the lateness of the time of making the grant, and to the prevalence of cholera, it has been found impossible to complete these this year. One only has been entirely finished. The others are all in a more or less advanced state, but cannot be completed till towards the end of the ensuing dry season, before which it will not be practicable to reach the requisite depth."

Some similar work was done in the Manaar district, but I have not exact information in respect to it.

All relating to the hospitals hitherto supervised by the assistant agents has been made over to the Principal Civil Medical Officer.

Legislation.

The absence of practical recognition of the assurance given in the letter appended, and the shortness of the time, as frequently occurs, between the publication of the draft of a proposed ordinance and its second reading, operate very injuriously to the interests of this province.

As a strong instance of this I ask attention to the Ordinance No. 15. of 1862, commonly termed "the Nuisance Ordinance," the dates as to the passage of which through the Council were, as appears by the newspapers, my only source of information, as follows:—

Draft first published in Gazette - -	15 November.
First reading - - - -	22 „
Second do. - - - -	26 „
Third do. - - - -	10 December.

and this at a season of the year when the tapal from Colombo was sometimes 10 or 12 days in arrear.

I have reason to believe that had more time been allowed to them to mature their arrangements, the parties interested would have applied to be heard by counsel against the proposed Ordinance.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

I have already under the head of circuits made reference to the visit of his Excellency the Governor. His Excellency landed at Point Pedro on the 14th June, remained 12 days in Jaffna, and travelled to Kandy by the central road, having been 24 days in the Province.

CEYLON.

In July the Auditor-General visited Jaffna on circuit, and during his stay gave particular attention to the system of manufacturing, collecting, and storing salt, and he concurred with me in recommending the adoption of weighing machines at the stores.

Evincing much interest in such matters, I had the opportunity of showing him various roads and bridges, and much of the country generally about Jaffna, particularly in connexion with the peculiar system of cultivation by irrigation from wells.

The paddy is in the Jaffna district sown in September and October, and reaped in January and February; the only cultivation from March to September is that from wells, and as the water in these never fails in the driest season, there is little or nothing, except when an unseasonable storm occurs, to afford material for notice as to cultivation during that period. The lands are cropped in the customary manner year by year with the utmost regularity and precision of system.

The paddy crop of 1862 reaped early in the year was good, as may be inferred from the statement of the revenue derived from it.

The early part of the cultivation season for the crop of 1863 was favourable, but in December the rains were generally in excess of the requirements of the plants, and in some places without drainage the plants were destroyed or extensively injured.

In the Manaar and Vanny districts there is little cultivation but that of paddy. I have not any annual report from the assistant agent of Manaar. The statement of the revenue, however, is alone sufficient to show that the crop of 1862 was good; and in his fourth quarter's report the assistant agent gives much the same account as to the cultivation for the crop of 1863 as I have stated in respect to Jaffna.

As for Manaar, as for the Vanny, I may point to the statement of revenue as affording sufficient evidence that the crop was fair. In this district there are two descriptions of paddy cultivation; that near the coast, like that of Jaffna, without irrigation, and that of the forest districts of the interior by irrigation from embanked tanks. The prospects as to the former were at one time very good, but the excessive rain caused some damage. That from tanks was delayed and interrupted by the like cause, and the breaking of tanks. The report of the assistant agent of Anaradapoora has been very carefully prepared, and is very full, and it gives a very unfavourable account of the cultivation of the year and state of the district as to like matter.

The following are extracts from that report:—

"The past year having been remarkable until the last two months of it for severe drought, and having been preceded by two years of sufficient rain supply, has proved a year of trial to the people.

"In the southern and western divisions there can scarcely be said to have been any maha paddy crop in the early part of the year, and the medde and yalla crops of field paddy were very scanty. In the eastern division of the district, however, the drought was not so severely felt. The crop of china and korukkan were below the average, and scarcity prevailed very generally in the southern and western divisions. In November and December the drought was exchanged for rains of extraordinary abundance, which set in in the most favourable manner, and the prospects of the ensuing year would have been very bright but for the scarcity of seed paddy which in the southern and western divisions was so much needed that a large extent of land has been left uncultivated for the want of it. The western division is peculiarly unfortunate in being separated from the neighbouring parts of the North-western Province where paddy is procurable, by the Kala Oya, a river subject to frequent floods, and which is practically a barrier to all communication during the rainy months."

And again, as to this river:—

"I have already remarked on the necessity of some means of crossing the Kala Oya, either by a ferry or bridge. The river is subject to frequent floods, which render it impassable often for a month at a time, and the uncertainty of crossing it when the weather is unsettled is such as to render it a barrier to all traffic for some months.

"The western minor road branches off the direct road from Putlam to Anaradapoora four miles from where the latter crosses the Kala Oya, so that this river intercepts the traffic on both roads. A bridge over this river is very desirable, and the bed offers great facilities for one. I may mention that I was myself detained recently for five days on the banks of this river, and eventually obliged to take another route which skirted the bank, to cross it 45 miles nearer its source. The river had not then been passable for a month, and remained impassable for a fortnight longer, and everywhere on my journey I found that a great extent of land which would otherwise have been brought under cultivation had been left waste, owing to the want of of seed paddy, which, though obtainable in seven korles, could not be brought into the district, owing to the impassable state of the Kala Oya; thus causing a loss of revenue to the Government.

"That it may not be supposed that I attach undue weight to the importance of uninterrupted communication with Putlam, I quote the following extract from a report of the supervisor of cooly bungalows, made to me after my departure from Anaradapoora:—

"'The necessaries of living are very dear; it is very difficult to obtain a measure of rice even for sixpence; the value of one cocoanut is sixpence; salt sevenpence a measure.'"

I had marked for notice in this report the question of the more important of the public works for which there is a demand, but I have abstained from entering on it from the fear of being led into too much detail, and I look to noticing the subject in my next report, with the aid of a carefully prepared synopsis of the works which have been executed, and of an explanatory map. Mr. Morris's reference, however, to the Kala Oya, leads me to notice how much the realization of the objects aimed at in the opening of roads in the large block of forest between the Elephant Pass and Dambool, 120 miles in length, by roughly 50 in breadth, is checked by the want of bridges.

A river on the eastern boundary, the Yangaor, interrupts communication with Trincomalie, as the Kala Oya on the west does with Putlam, and on the central road of 120 miles.

Bridges are still required at five places, reckoning the delta of the Kanagazayendor in the Karetchy as one.

To return, however, to Mr. Morris's report. The commutation settlement has been this year renewed. Mr. Morris has taken very great interest in this, and it is right that I should bring under the notice of Government some of his remarks respecting it, as of general interest.

These are as follows :—

" It does not appear to me that a commutation settlement should be regarded merely as a means for the collection of revenue. In so litigious a country as this, and where verbal evidence is so little to be trusted, a commutation settlement affords a valuable opportunity of checking litigation and false evidence, by accurately registering the names of the actual and legal owners of lands, and in the eastern and western divisions, where the registration has been completed, I think it may be regarded as accurate. Unfortunately, a mistake which has been detected in the southern division has in my opinion so materially affected the importance of the registration as an evidence of title, that I have returned the whole of the bonds to the acting ratta mahatmeya for a careful revision."

In this Province the object indicated has always been kept in view ; but I notice the point because of the very particular attention Mr. Morris has paid to it.

The heavy rains have already been noticed in connexion with cultivation and the loss of cattle.

The subject, however, requires some further notice.

The assistant agent of Manaar states :—

" In December there was the heaviest fall of rain ever remarked to have taken place in this district; all the tanks were filled, and several burst. Several mud houses in Manaar fell down, and much injury was done to the cooly sheds."

The assistant agent at Mullativoe writes :—

" During December in particular, more rain fell than has ever before fallen in the same time within the memory of the inhabitants of the district. The damage done to houses, and the loss of houses and productive trees, has been considerable. The road and bridges about the station have been extensively damaged."

While the statement of the assistant agent of Nuwere Kalavia states that " in the latter half of " December the floods were of almost unprecedented severity ; but that the number of tanks broken " were much less than might have been expected under such circumstances."

As to Jaffna, I certainly have seen much heavier rain, and the water standing in the usually flooded places at a higher level than on this occasion, but that was the effect of very heavy rain falling in storms in a comparatively few hours, a great part of which rapidly ran off, while the peculiarity of the past season was the long continued unintermitted steady rain, which has had a peculiar effect on a number of public buildings, as the old Dutch Church in the fort, hitherto regarded as imperishable ; the Queen's house ; gaol ; gaoler's house ; all three in the fort; and the custom house, all which exhibit many cracks and settlements in the walls, the real importance of which it is, however, the peculiar business of the civil engineer to report on.

The injury to the mud-walled houses of the people was also extensive, from the saturation of the walls; but this would have been far greater, and indeed disastrous, as regards the vicinity of Jaffna, but for the relief afforded by the modern works of drainage.

The modern works of bridges, some with extensive causeways across the broad salt inlet in the peninsula, have not suffered, but the damage to the sides and surface of roads in general has been considerable, and in many places the people, from necessity, cut across the roads, a practice which from recognition of the necessity of it, it is customary to overlook on such occasions.

(Signed) P. A. DYKE,
Government Agent.

Jaffna, 27th April 1863.

Enclosure 7 in No. 22.

SIR, Government Agent's Office, Trincomalie, March 4, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to forward the report of my assistant at Batticaloa for the year 1862.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. L. MITFORD,
Government Agent.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Assistant Government Agent of Batticaloa for 1862.

I am greatly at a loss to frame a report calculated to prove of value or interest, for on resuming charge of my district on the 1st May last, after an absence of nearly four years, instead of being able at once to make a tour through the length and breadth, and thus acquaint myself with all the changes that had taken place in the features of the country, from extended cultivation, &c. I found so small a sum (only 20*l.*) available for this purpose, that I was compelled to content myself with a hurried visit to the irrigation works, and to the principal villages in their vicinity ; and I must confess, that, though disappointed at finding so small an amount left at my disposal, I could not feel surprised,

CEYLON.

since the amount apportioned to travelling allowance for the assistant agent for the year was only 75*l.*, and 27*l.* had been drawn to cover expenses incurred in 1861.

General Revenue.

I have been unfortunate too in the period of my resuming charge, for there has been a decrease in the general revenue of no less than 4,446*l.*, but the causes are so obvious as to render lengthy explanation needless; but it may be well here to remark, that although it has fallen so far short of the revenue of 1861, with which it has to be compared in the periodical statements, it is treble what it was in 1852.

Land Sales.

More than four-fifths of the decrease is on land sales alone, and when I point out that upwards of 10,000*l.* has been collected in the past two years, entirely from the natives of the district, who, with but few exceptions, are anything but opulent, the decrease will not excite much surprise.

It has been represented to me that many have gone so recklessly to work that their new possessions are eating up their old in interest on money borrowed to enable the proprietors to join in the throng of purchasers.

Had I yielded to a selfish desire to make a show of keeping up the revenue derived from this source, I might perhaps, by personal influence, have succeeded to some extent, but in so doing I should have been inflicting injury on the people, in the first instance, and through them eventually to the revenue, for as it is they have great difficulty in adding to the extent of their cultivations, many having barely sufficient means left to enable them to employ even enough hands to keep the usual extent cultivated, and it must be a very gradual work to bring the new lands into thorough cultivation, if the old are worked too.

Paddy.

The loss on the revenue derived from paddy rented is 845*l.*, but the commutation is increased by 330*l.*, so that the true deficit under this head is 515*l.*; a large sum, and requiring some explanation.

By far the larger proportion is attributable to the injury sustained by the flood of February last, which was the heaviest known since 1834, and was unfortunately followed, as is frequently the case, by extensive damage from flies and caterpillars, which attacked the crop when in ear. The reports of the headmen show, that some 1,500 acres were seriously affected by these causes; but the carrying out of the commutation system has undoubtedly added in no slight degree, to the decrease of revenue from this source, as also will the sale of land that has been cultivated on licence, for the licence-holder pays one-fifth while the proprietor only pays one-tenth.

I must confess that I am no admirer of the system of commutation for tithes. My reasons for disapproving of it are as follows:

In the first place, with the very best intentions on the part of those who make the assessment, it cannot be based on any very exact calculation, and many will pay less, while a few perhaps may pay more, than is quite equitable, but the latter instances are very rare. The desire being to avoid any semblance of harshness, or any approach to extortion, the result is that the revenue suffers, and, as I believe, in no slight degree. I have taken six cases indiscriminately from the books, which will go far to prove the correctness of my views in this respect.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Kayancolom was rented in 1861 for -	4	13	6	sold subsequently, and commuted at -	1	5	0
Vellayayel „ -	3	10	0	„	2	8	9
Tolervellie „ -	9	6	0	„	8	12	6
Palle Moolecaren Vayel - - „ -	2	14	6	„	1	0	3
Pooliady Vial „ -	2	1	0	„	0	17	6
Vaical Patto „ -	5	17	0	„	4	13	0
	28	2	0		18	17	0

The loss on these exceeds three-tenths, so that on calculating it on this data 100*l.*, or nearly one fifth of the decrease, will be owing to commutation.

Secondly, I do not believe that the advantage is at all appreciated by the majority of paddy landholders, who prefer that a tithe of their crop, whatever it may be, should be taken yearly, to having to pay a certain sum whether their cultivation be successful or not. They have often urged failure of crops as a reason why commutation should not be demanded, and consider it a great hardship that their plea is unavailing.

The strongest argument that I have heard urged in favour of commutation is, that it saves the cultivators from the oppression of strangers, who may purchase the Government share of the crops, and much consequent litigation; but this may be equally avoided by subdividing the rents, so that each party of cultivators or proprietor may purchase that of his own field, should he desire it. This has been much done here, and certainly it cannot be said that the revenue suffered from it; on the contrary, on the first occasion of my selling the rents of this district on this plan, which was in 1855, the success was most marked, the receipts having increased from 480*l.* in the previous year to 1,545*l.*

To the two causes of decrease in paddy revenue that I have named must be added the difference that results from selling fields that were cultivated on licence, such paying one-fifth in the first instance, and one-tenth, or, if commuted, even less, subsequently.

Dry Grain.

Dry grain, though not an important source of revenue, deserves some consideration from the fact that it has hitherto yielded sustenance to a very considerable portion of the residents of this district. The cultivation of it has been greatly discouraged by the enforcement of the rules laid down by our late respected Governor Sir Henry Ward. As is well known, this is the chief produce taken off chenas, and consists of Indian corn and fine grain of various sorts, the former, however, being reared in smaller quantities than the latter.

Cotton too is grown to some extent on chenas, and I was desirous of inducing the natives of the district to enter more freely into its culture than hitherto. My plan was, however, unsupported by the head of my department, and having been disapproved of by Government was abandoned at once. I think it right to invite a reconsideration of the subject, and with due submission to express my opinion that where the transport to the shipping place is so easy, and where, as I believe, much might be done, if good seed were furnished, and some encouragement given, it would be well to adopt some system upon which a trial could be made. It is hopeless to expect that the natives would at first devote their sole attention to that; but if allowed to cultivate indian corn with it, paying a tax for both, it would, it appears to me, prove advantageous to all. My original plan, without risking the destruction of any forests, would have induced the cultivation of cotton to some little extent, and had it proved remunerative it would doubtless have been extended, and eventually forest lands have been applied for in purchase for this purpose.

The revenue derived from dry grain in 1862 is but little more than two-thirds of what it was in 1861, showing that far less land was cultivated as chena, and, as a result, much misery and even starvation existed among the poor of the district.

None could be more averse than I to the manner in which it was carried on in former years, and in my report for 1854 my remark upon it is as follows: "the injury to the country itself from an "extensive chena cultivation is so great, that it should only be allowed where other means of pro- "viding food for the people are unattainable, or at least very difficult of access."

I quote this passage as it appears to me that I am supposed to be inclined to encourage this description of occupation, which is far from the case; my views now are as then in favour of its discontinuance; but I feel it must be done gradually, or we shall add immensely to the suffering among the poor.

Roads.

Badulla.—As the Batticaloa district increases in revenue importance, so does the necessity for affording an easy outlet for its produce to the interior, where it is so much needed. Rice, salt fish, salt, oil, and ghee are sent in considerable quantities to Badulla; and it would be reasonable to suppose that as time passed on so would improvements be apparent on the road between the two stations, but such, I regret to say, is not the case, it being in far worse order now than when I last saw it in 1857.

Kandy.—A branch from it about two miles from the boundary of the district to Alootnuwera (the distance being about 17 miles) would be of immense advantage, as bringing Batticaloa into communication with the coffee country lying between that and Mede Mahanewera, and making the distance between Kandy and this about 102 miles. A rough trace from the Badulla road to Alootnuwera was made at the instance of Mr. Birch, when acting assistant agent here, and I consider it of such importance to this district, and to the estates lying between Alootnuwere and Mede Mahanuwere that I would urge that the attention of the Provincial Road Committee of Kandy should be invited to it. There is no engineering difficulty, and the work need not be of a costly nature.

South Coast road.—The road of next importance is that portion of the coast road that lies between Calmoone to Carencottetieve, passing through the most fertile portion of the irrigation district, and three large cocoanut estates, the crop of which has to be brought over it.

There are several dangerous rivers on this line, which require to be bridged, and I trust they will receive attention during the ensuing year.

North Coast road.—Some money has been expended during the past year upon the north road, which connects this with Trincomalie, and the Assistant Civil Engineer informed me that he purposed devoting about 200*l.* to it in 1863. With such expenditure the advance must be very trifling, and in my opinion it would be well to do nothing more than keep it clear, until such time as the south road has been made a good cart line. Since there is water carriage from this to Eravor, a distance of about 10 miles, and during the rains as far as "Varlley Chena" or "Venloos Bay," a canal to connect these two points would be of far more value than any road, and not be nearly so expensive. With this in view, a trace was made some years back by Mr. Smith, and can be found in the Civil Engineer's office, and I believe an estimate of the probable cost of cutting is to be found there also.

Minor Works.

I have not had much opportunity of judging what has been done on minor works generally in the district. Those I have seen are as follows.

Carative and Samantorre.—The Carative and Samantorre line was commenced by me before leaving for England, and if it could be completed would be of great use in connecting Samantorre with the very populous villages on the east coast.

It is a high embankment, with several deep gaps in it, impassable except by canoe; it is therefore useless as a road, and has unfortunately been a source of considerable injury to some of the paddy fields close to it on the north.

CEYLON.

The error has been in raising it to its present height, which is above the highest floods. It is about a mile in length, across a large paddy plain; and when the waters come down the resistance offered by the dam causes them to rise far higher than formerly in the southern portion of the plain, and to rush out with overpowering velocity through the spaces left, which it widens by washing off the material into the fields, to their no small damage.

I consider that our proper course would be to cut down this dam to a level slightly above the higher field dams. This would give a dry firm road at all seasons. If this be done I consider that the number of outlets now allowed would be ample, as in heavy floods, which last but for a day or two, the road would be submerged; and if proper slopes be given to the sides no great damage need ever result.

The bridges will be an expensive undertaking, and I fear beyond the means at the disposal of the District Road Committee. There must be five of them, and their cost would hardly be less than 100*l.* each if the embankment be lowered; from 150*l.* and to 300*l.* if the road be kept at the present level. (Of course my estimates are but approximate.)

In a letter I addressed to the Provincial Road Committee on the 28th May last, I begged that the matter might be brought prominently to the notice of Government, as in its present state the road is worse than useless, and the work too expensive for the District Road Committee to provide funds to undertake.

Samantorre and Ericaman.—The line from Samantorre to Ericaman is chiefly of importance from its connecting the irrigation works with the most populous parts of that district. It crosses two streams, or rather two branches of the Pattepole Aar, viz., the Sengapadde and Veyreadie streams, both of which are impassable during heavy floods, except by boats; and as it may be necessary at any time to send a force without delay to save the works, it is advisable that there should be good canoes at each place.

It was, I am informed, intended to raise the piers of the Vereyadie dam so as to construct a bridge across, and it will be very useful in the rainy season. But it must be many years before we can look to crossing the Sengepadde Aar, which is very broad at this point during floods, in any other way than by boats.

Ericaman to Ambare.—The road from Ericaman to Ambare is most needed for the works at the last-named place, and should be kept open and gradually improved.

Ericaman to Carencotteline.—This does not require any great expenditure, nor has it had it, but it is useful. not only as connecting villages, but since the latter is thickly populated, which Ericaman is not, people can be obtained from thence on an emergency, when the streams between the great tank and the villages to the north are impassable.

Vullientive Bridge.—Having commenced on the subject of public works, I do not think I should be doing justice to the district did I not invite attention to the promised bridge on the Trincomalie road, between the island of Vullientive and the main land at Cottemone. It is much needed, and the disappointment at not getting it this year is considerable.

Buildings.

The gaol, as I have reported by letter, is small, much in need of repair, and unfit for the purpose. A proposal for a new one was submitted by the Civil Engineer about the middle of the year; and as it seemed improbable that a new building would be sanctioned, I was called upon to submit a plan for enlarging this one, and making it more appropriate, which I have done. Though this is not a first class gaol, the district is so extensive and populous that it is necessary to provide room for a considerable number of prisoners on short sentences and for further examination.

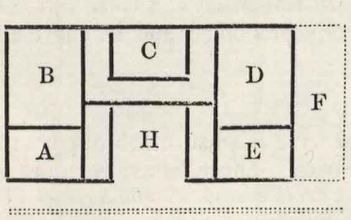
The roof of the wards is decayed, and needs renewal. The doors require repair, and larger ventilating apertures in them. The gate is rotten, and could easily be forced. The civil and criminal female wards open into the rest house compound, immediately upon the stables.

The gaol establishment is most insufficient, consisting of two peons, who have to be with the working parties all day, and take it in turn to watch at night. Under these circumstances the supervision cannot be very effective, particularly as there is no residence in the vicinity for the gaoler.

Cutcherry.

The cutcherry is a very neat and commodious one, but being open on the north and south no work can be done when rain is accompanied by strong wind, the drift passing through the whole of the clerk's rooms. Venetian doors with glass frames above are much required.

The position of the courthouse is most inconvenient, being so close to the landing place and customs office the noise during the shipping season interferes much with business. It is one of a block that forms three sides of a quadrangle, as per margin. A being the judge's chamber, B the courthouse, C office of court establishment, D salt store, E custom house, F enclosed shed, meant to store goods that could not be removed immediately after landing; but the principal collector, Mr. Vane, disapproved of it, and they are now stowed in the verandah G or in the yard H, to the great disgust of the merchants, who complain bitterly of the damage they sustain in wet weather. It has been proposed to wall off a portion of the salt store D, but that would not afford nearly sufficient space. If the whole of the room D were given up, and either another salt store or a new courthouse built, it would be a far better arrangement.



Assistant Agent's Residence.

This old building, used as a residence for the Assistant Government Agent, would be most comfortable, were the verandah carried all round the upper story, and both ends made alike. The lower story can only be used as storerooms, at present, the flooring above being supported by rough posts. An estimate for a new flooring is very much needed, and I have heard was submitted and sanctioned last year, but the work was not done. Some of the out-offices require attention, and but a small outlay would suffice for that portion of the work.

District Judge's Residence.

The District Judge's house should be carefully inspected, as there is reason to fear that the roof in some places is not in a very safe state. The flooring should be raised, as it is almost on a level with the grounds, and consequently very damp.

Old Chapel.

An old building in the vicinity of the courthouse had been used for many years as a chapel, but soon after I left for England I learn that the roof was taken off it, the stones placed over the remains of those which had been entered within its walls removed, and the unsafe tiled roof having been replaced by a Cadjan one, it was used as a temporary salt store.

I cannot but regret this, feeling, as I do, that the members of the national church should at least have a neat building set apart for them to worship in. Had we desired a better church, it would of course have been required that a moiety of the cost should be subscribed; but the congregation were very well satisfied with what they had, and that having been taken from them I think they are entitled to hope that another may be granted to them.

No expensive affair is needed, for the English congregation is about 50 in number, and the Tamil 20, as appears by the returns kept by the Reverend Mr. Nicholas, a Tamil, paid by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and has been stationed here by them since 1854.

I would here respectfully propose, that as the Government have withdrawn the grant in aid of the dispensary, which has been hitherto of great benefit to all classes of residents here, that they should authorize the erection of a small building, to be used as an hospital by such wounded and sick as require and receive professional assistance from the medical officer of the station, and that a monthly allowance be given to some person, who should have the charge of the building, and attend upon the sick. Should the Government consent to this, it will indeed be a boon, for when patients are brought in there is no place at which they can be kept, unless it be the civil ward in the gaol, or if a woman the female ward.

(Signed) J. MORPHEW,
Asst. Govt. Agent.

Batticaloa Cutcherry,
February 20, 1863.

HONG KONG.

No. 23.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 127.)

MY LORD DUKE, Hong Kong, July 1, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Grace the Blue Book of Hong Kong for 1862, prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

2. The principal points of interest will be found noticed in Mr. Alexander's covering letter.

3. Having so frequently in past years commented on the growing prosperity of the Colony, which the accompanying volume shows to be continued and increased during the last twelve months, I have but little to remark on now.

Gas.

4. A proposition to introduce gas into Hong Kong has been entertained by the Government, and will in all likelihood be carried out before a year is over. Opposition to this measure of public benefit was made on private behalf, and I was glad to take the opportunity to set the community right on certain points connected with the scheme, concerning which they had been misled by interested individuals.

Waterworks.

5. The waterworks are nearly ready, but they will considerably exceed in cost the original estimate furnished by Mr. Rawling.

Education.

6. The Board of Education has not shown much result as yet, but I hope and trust that Mr. Stewart's zeal will meet eventually with the success it deserves.

7. An assistant master has been applied for, and the proposal is under consideration.

8. The thanks of the Government are due to the Bishop of Victoria and the other gentlemen who give their gratuitous services to the cause, by acting as members of the Board of Education.

Health.

9. The sanitary condition of the Island has been all that could be desired, and the Colonial Surgeon's report merits attention.

10. There are some subjects on which I cannot altogether report with satisfaction.

Post Office.

11. The postal service is conducted under considerable difficulty, especially the packet agency at Shanghae, concerning which it may be necessary to address your Grace hereafter in a separate despatch. I have caused the report of the Postmaster General on the postal revenue for the year to be inserted in the Appendix to the Blue Book.

Police.

12. The experiment of recruiting in India for the police force has not fully answered the expectation formed of it, but the steps taken to correct the defects that showed themselves have apparently been to some extent successful.

Kowloon and Pokfoolum.

13. The delay in the settlement of Kowloon has acted injuriously on the Colony in certain respects, but in one it has been of assistance, for, owing to the improbability of soon procuring sites at Kowloon, a useful and ornamental villa-settlement has sprung up at Pokfoolum on this Island.

Naval Head Quarters.

14. A new dock at Aberdeen for the use of Her Majesty's Navy has been projected, and received the approval of the Lords of the Admiralty. This, with the possible cessation of employment for Her Majesty's ships in Japan and the neighbourhood of Shanghae, will render Hong Kong in reality, and not in name only, what it was always intended to be, the head quarters of our navy in China.

Defences.

15. Thus the entire absence of land defences for this city and harbour (which has lately engaged attention) will be made of less moment, though it is represented by competent authority that land batteries are necessary, in aid of such defence as would be afforded by ships of war.

Prosperity of Hong Kong, and its causes.

16. On the whole I am enabled at this date to endorse and confirm the various reports made by me on the annual Blue Book of Hong Kong for some years past, especially that which accompanies the book for 1858.

17. Year by year the Colony continues to improve its political and its commercial status, while its position as a post of general convenience is as readily admitted now as heretofore.

18. Something of this prosperity is due to geographical location, something to accidental circumstances, and a considerable part to the professional enterprise of British and Foreign merchants.

19. But there is one thing behind these. Had the Chinese themselves kept aloof, commercial enterprise would have effected little; but the natives of the mainland flocked to Hong Kong in crowds, after some few years' experience or observation of it.

20. Doubtless they did so from seeing means of trade, but plainly also because they saw here a difference in Government, and consequently a superiority in British over Chinese forms.

21. They could not but note a marked contrast as to the integrity of the officials, the administration of justice, particularly the more humane system of criminal judicature, and the greater protection to life and property; and whatever may have been the past reputation of Hong Kong (the causes of which it would not be difficult to find), it is worth while to note the points I have just indicated, and I venture to submit that common justice will not withhold from the gentlemen who have been the main instruments in the foundation and advancement of the Colony the merit not only of promoting its prosperity, but of setting a praiseworthy example before the people and the Government of China.

22. I may confidently say, that, putting aside a short period of depression (now 10 years past), Hong Kong has gradually and steadily fulfilled, and far more than fulfilled, the hopes of its most sanguine friends.

23. I may also observe that its growth during the last four years has repeatedly called forth the wonder of all who have chanced to see it, whether British or Foreign, residents or visitants.

I have &c.
(Signed) W. T. MERCER.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No 23.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hong Kong,
June 11, 1863.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1862.

2. In doing so I have to state that the forms annually sent out by the Secretary of State have this year been sent stitched together in the form of a book, instead of loose, as had been the practice in former years.

3. This is the reason that the Blue Book does not contain various reports, returns, and tables which have usually been inserted; but I append them for reference, if necessary.

Revenue and Expenditure.

4. The revenue for 1862 amounted to $631,259. 98., and shows an increase of $ 20,502 39. over that of the previous year. This increase is chiefly shown under the heads of postage, police and lighting rates, opium farm, auctioneer and pawnbrokers' licences. This last item is new, and may, I think, be hailed as a proof that the prejudices of the native population are not so difficult to overcome when met with prudence and firmness.

1862 -	$631,259	98
1861 -	610,757	59
	$20,502	39

5. The Pawnbrokers' Ordinance, No. 3. of 1860, was passed on the 16th April 1860, and until early last year not one licence was applied for, and even then only after a most urgent petition, praying the Government to alter certain of the provisions of the Ordinance, and stating that the application for licences would be conditional on such amendment being made, had been rejected, the petitioners being informed that if after trial the objections they urged were found to exist it would then be time enough to consider the propriety of amending the Ordinance. Nothing more, however, has been said upon the subject.

6. The expenditure of the Colony for 1862 has also exceeded that of 1861, being respectively $ 587,633 94. and $ 526,233 78., showing an increase of $ 61,400 16. This is accounted for principally by the increase to the police force, roads, streets, and bridges, the establishment of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, and for educational purposes. With reference to this subject, I may add, that since the 1st July last the accounts of the Colony have been kept in dollars.

1862 -	$587,633	94
1861 -	526,233	78
	$61,400	16

Population.

7. The Census taken on the 31st December last shows a total of 123,511, being 4,190 in excess of the previous year; a result which confirms me in the opinion that we only arrive at an approximate estimate of the population of the Colony. It is to be observed that of this 4,190 our late acquisition, Kowloon, contributes more than a fourth, or 1,326. Judging from appearances, I should have estimated the increase to be nearer 20,000 than 4,000.

HONG KONG.

Shipping.

8. The returns show the arrival during 1862 of 1,390 vessels, aggregating 688,829 tons. This is an increase upon the entries during 1861 of 131 vessels and 30,633 tons, the increase being in the proportion of 84 British and 47 Foreign vessels. The number of vessels were in—

	Vessels.	Tons.
1862	1,390	688,829
1861	1,259	658,196
	131	30,633

British	84
Foreign	47
	131

	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1857	1,070	541,063
1858	1,007	716,476
1859	1,158	626,536
1861	1,259	658,196
1862	1,390	688,829

I have omitted 1860, in which the number of vessels was 1,534 of 875,199 tons, as being an exceptional year, owing to the number of transports, &c. &c. &c. In the absence of a custom house, the imports and exports cannot be ascertained, but I think we should be justified in taking the above facts to prove that trade is on the increase.

Emigration.

9. There were 32 emigrant ships cleared from this port during 1862. Of this number 20 were American, 1 French, 1 Danish, 1 Chilian, and 9 British; and they carried 9,693 males, 681 females, and 47 children, distributed as under:—

San Francisco	7,266 men,	264 women,	2 children.
Australian Colonies	977 „	– „	2 „
British West Indies	1,450 „	417 „	43 „
	9,693 „	681 „	47 „

Legislation.

10. The Ordinances that were passed in 1862 were 15 in number, of which the most important were those relating to the regulation of the harbour, the enrolment of a volunteer corps, the prohibition by proclamation (if necessary) of the export of munitions of war, the abolishing of the offices of chief magistrate and assistant magistrate, the establishing of a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the Post Office Ordinance, and the Police Ordinance.

1 of 1862
2 of 1862
3 of 1862
6 of 1862
7 of 1862
8 of 1862
9 of 1862

Departments.

11. The state of the various departments of the public service of the Colony is on the whole satisfactory. The harbour master is the only head of a department absent from the Colony, but his absence does not impair the efficiency of the service, so far as the duties of the office are concerned. I have to note the abolition during the year of the offices of chief magistrate and assistant magistrate, the substitution of two police magistrates with equal powers, and the constituting of a court of summary jurisdiction, the judge of which (in the absence of Mr. Adams, who left in April last,) is acting as chief justice, while Mr. Whyte, one of the police magistrates (being a barrister), is acting as Judge of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, in addition to performing his own duties.

12. During the last year the scheme for supplying the public service of this Colony with interpreters and officers by means of cadets has been successfully initiated by the arrival of three gentlemen, of whom I need only say that they have given themselves manfully to the study of the language, and with very fair success, and that if men of similar education and standing can be induced to join, the civil service of Hong Kong bids fair to be second to none.

13. The Surveyor-General, as must always be the case here, has had his hands full, not only with new works, but also with works of old standing, which in a climate like this require constant attention. The new gaol, towards the close of the year was partly occupied by the European prisoners; and in connexion with this subject I may record in this place, although belonging to the transactions of the present year, the establishment of a convict hulk at Stone Cutters' Island, in which 280 Chinese and other Asiatic prisoners are about to be confined, and whose removal will allow the erection of the new central police station being proceeded with. It is with regret that I have to record the death on the 18th ultimo of Mr. Scott, late Governor of the gaol.

14. The waterworks are steadily progressing towards completion. They have required a longer period than was originally thought sufficient. This is principally owing to the difficulty of getting, at this distance from England, castings and pipes to meet exactly the various exigencies of the island formation. This will be easily understood if we take into consideration that the reservoir is placed at a distance by direct route over the hill scarcely exceeding two miles, while the distance by the road along which the pipes are laid is more than double, owing to the sinuous contour of the hills it traverses. The main pipes have been laid down in the town, and the value of this service has been amply proved, it being ascertained that by simply screwing a hose on to the fire-plug, water can be thrown over any of the houses in the vicinity; a fact the great utility of which requires neither comment nor explanation.

15. The districts of Bowrington, Wanchai, and Seyingpoon have been laid out, and are partially built upon.

16. Nothing has been done at Kowloon, except to have it surveyed, which appears to have been very satisfactorily executed by Mr. Bird, late of the Royal Engineers, who was temporarily employed for that service. This work was commenced in the end of 1862, but was only finished a very short time back.

17. The government gardens begin to show signs of the labour that has been bestowed upon them. Seeds and plants have been obtained from England, Australia, and elsewhere, and I hope by the end of this year they (the gardens) will be sufficiently advanced to afford some enjoyment to the community.

Police.

18. On the first of May last year, a body of 150 men, natives of India, arrived, and were incorporated with the police force of the Colony, which had just been re-organized under Ordinance 9. of 1862. A year has elapsed, and although the experiment has not perhaps answered to the full expectation, yet it is undoubtedly an improvement upon the old system. At all events there is no better mode, within the reach of the Colony, of forming a police force. The strength of the force is 486, of which 60 are Europeans, 318 Indians, and 108 Chinese; that being short of the authorized complement by 64. I may add that instructions have been sent to Bombay for the enlistment of 60 additional men, but no intimation has yet been received of their having been obtained.

Europeans	60
Indians	318
Chinese	108
	486
Full strength	550
Short	64
	486

Education.

19. In the Appendix mentioned in the third paragraph of this letter will be found the report of the Board of Education for 1862. It has been considered advisable to discontinue four of the village schools, on the ground of the nonattendance of the pupils, owing, as it is stated, to the poverty of the parents rendering it a matter of imperative necessity to employ their children in agricultural labour for their subsistence; to this perhaps may be added the inclination, common to most people, to undervalue that which costs them nothing, and on this view the board recommended the handing over to the villagers the four schoolhouses rent-free, in order that they may, if so disposed, employ their own schoolmasters. This recommendation has been carried out, on certain conditions as to the care of the houses, &c., and the funds thus released have been used in increasing the efficiency of the schools in Victoria and its neighbourhood. Mr. Stewart, the head master of the Central School, arrived early in the year, and has applied himself to his work with diligence.

Sanitary.

20. The Colonial Surgeon's report for 1862, appended to the Blue Book, shows that the health of the Colony during the last year has been satisfactory; and as the three previous years have been almost as healthy, we may perhaps venture to anticipate that the improvement may be permanent in its character. The Colonial Surgeon says it is to be "hoped that this improvement has been the result of the many sanitary reforms "that have taken place;" and taking into consideration the almost entire freedom of the Colony from cholera, as compared with every place in the vicinity, I think we are entitled to attribute our escape, under Providence, to the sanitary reforms mentioned by the Colonial Surgeon.

21. Your Excellency appointed a sanitary committee, with a view to consideration being given to the existing system of drainage, and the suggestion of any improvement

HONG KONG.

therein that might appear necessary. The committee, however, have not yet submitted their report.

Volunteers.

22. I cannot conclude this brief report without alluding to the establishment in this Colony of a corps of volunteers, and although they have been little more than a twelve-month in existence, their efficiency is highly spoken of. On the occasion of the celebration of Her Majesty's birthday, they took part in the parade, and I had the pleasure subsequently to hear the commandant of the garrison express a very high opinion of their appearance and steadiness.

23. This is gratifying, and greatly to the credit of the gentlemen who form the corps, for it is not to be overlooked that they give up to the acquirement of a knowledge of their duty as soldiers the small portion of time which their avocations allow for purposes of recreation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. ALEXANDER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency W. T. Mercer, Esquire,
Acting Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

LABUAN.

LABUAN.

No. 24.

No. 24.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 23.) Government Offices, Labuan,
MY LORD DUKE, May 19, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1862.

At the close of 1861 the prospects of the Colony were so gloomy, in consequence of the failure of the acting manager of the Labuan Coal Company to open the mines, that the estimates for expenditure for 1862 were confined to the smallest possible amount necessary for carrying on the routine duties, and preserving the property of Government in repair.

The convict labour was employed principally on the roads, and in clearing ground in the neighbourhood of the town. The roads are in consequence in better order than they had ever previously been, and it is believed that the clearings near the town, which are still being carried on, will continue to improve the salubrity of the neighbourhood.

The new superintendent appointed by the Labuan Coal Company arrived in February 1862, and having commenced to work the coal in a new place, undisturbed by the workings of his predecessors, his progress during the year was very satisfactory.

At Christmas 3,205 tons of coal had been raised from the drifts driven into the upper and smaller vein, and a drift to the deeper and far larger vein had been driven about one third of the required distance. A pit to the same vein had also been begun.

A good railroad to the shipping place at Tanjong Kubong, including a substantial jetty, was also constructed during the year.

All reports upon the coal raised, state its quality to be very good for steam and gas purposes, but complain that it burns rather more rapidly than Welch coal. It is undoubtedly the best coal that has been discovered in the east.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH LOW,
Administrator of the Government.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c

MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS AND IONIAN ISLANDS.

GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 25.

No. 25.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Lieut.-General Sir WILLIAM CODRINGTON, K.C.B., dated February 28, 1863, to the SECRETARY of STATE for WAR.

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit the Blue Book for 1862, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Colonial Secretary.

Revenue.

There has been an increase on various items over the amount received in 1861 of 1,400*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, and a decrease on others of 909*l.* 17*s.*, leaving the total increase of revenue 490*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* sterling. These items of increase and decrease are mostly caused by the fluctuations of trade, and show no alteration worthy of remark.

Expenditure.

The increase of expenditure over the former year of 1,531*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* sterling has been caused by various improvements in the city, public gardens, and government offices.

Public Works and Buildings.

The convent is in a most dilapidated state, and requires extensive repairs. A report of the Civil Engineer is enclosed.

An efficient water supply for the civil population is much needed, and a plan and estimate have been submitted to Her Majesty's Government.

Population and Mortality.

The resident population, according to a Census taken in June 1860, amounts to 15,462. This is exclusive of military, convicts, and aliens on temporary permits, varying from three days to a year. The number of the latter vary, but in December last was 989.

The number of deaths among the civil resident population was 485, and 31 among the alien population; 3$\frac{1}{7}$ths per cent. of the whole.

Under the head of miscellaneous returns are inserted the number of cases heard and disposed of in the various courts of law in Gibraltar.

The schools are 10 in number, in which are educated 1,234 boys and 819 girls; besides these are the regimental schools, in which are instructed 220 boys and 158 girls.

I append a report from the Colonial Secretary on the commerce of Gibraltar. The
Feb. 21, 1863. return therein mentioned is inserted at page 199 of the Blue Book.

Gibraltar being a free port, it has been impossible to arrive at exact statistics on either imports or exports, except in the case of wines, spirits, and tobacco, introduced for consumption in the garrison, but I believe it to be a close approximation to the actual amounts under their different heads; and the report may be interesting, as being the first time that the nature and details of the trade of Gibraltar has been attempted for record.

Enclosure in No. 25.

SIR, Secretary's Office, Gibraltar, February 21, 1863.

MY attention having been directed to the small amount of information given to Her Majesty's Government with reference to the trade of Gibraltar, I have the honour to inform your Excellency, that, with the help of the merchants, traders, and others in Gibraltar, I have obtained a return of the value of imports from, and exports to, various countries on classified goods, which I now submit, together with the following remarks on the commerce of Gibraltar.

Forms portion of Blue Book for 1862. Vide p. 199.

It must first be my duty to show how erroneous is the idea that the trade of Gibraltar is supported chiefly by smuggling goods into Spain.

There is no doubt that in former years a large smuggling trade was carried on with Spain, and continued with varying success until about 1842.

The reasons were as follows:—

1st. The revolt of the Spanish Colonies between the years 1816 and 1819, the internal dissensions that ensued in the reign of Ferdinand the 7th, the civil war at his death, until the year 1840, rendered smuggling a comparatively easy and safe matter.

2dly. The fact of Spain refusing to admit several articles of English and foreign manufacture, and levying high duties on others, was a great encouragement to smuggling.

3dly. The arbitrary law by which all Spanish vessels touching at Gibraltar were, until 1842, deprived of their national character, and both ship and cargo had to pay in Spanish ports the extra duties levied on foreign vessels.

The cause of the decline of smuggling during the last 20 years has been—

1st. That Spain has been progressing, although but slowly, developing her internal resources and enlarging her marine.

2dly. Many foreign goods formerly entirely prohibited are now admitted into Spain, and the duties on others are reduced.

Smuggling into Spain now hardly exists, and where it does it is carried on by Spaniards themselves, who, buying goods in the shops, conceal them in small quantities about their persons, to sell in Spain.

The importation of tobacco, in which a large smuggling trade formerly existed, began to decline about the year 1847, falling in that year from 69,998 cwt. to 53,668 cwt. in 1848, and to 41,508 cwt. in 1849; and last year, 1862, the amount was only 10,463 cwt.

The trade of Gibraltar is now, and for some time past has been, a licit one with different countries. The principal imports, which are again exported chiefly to Spain and Morocco, are cotton, woollen, linen, and silk manufactures from England and France.

Sugars come from Havannah or Cuba, from Cadiz, and from Brazil, viâ Lisbon; refined sugars from England, France, and Belgium; coffee from Brazil, viâ Lisbon. These are exported to Morocco in large quantities.

Corn and seeds are imported largely from Morocco. A great proportion of these are sent to England and other countries where there is the best market.

Metals, chiefly imported from England, are exported to Spain and Portugal, and Morocco.

Wool and hides from Morocco, principally are exported to England, France, Italy, and the United States.

Wine, beer, and spirits imported from England are almost entirely for local consumption; but an immense quantity of alcohol, chiefly imported from the United States, and various descriptions of Foreign spirits and liqueurs from Holland, Germany, and other countries, are exported from Gibraltar into Spain.

The import of coal from the United Kingdom is considerable, and is of the utmost importance, both as respects the coaling of Her Majesty's Ships, and also the numerous vessels passing to and from the Mediterranean. Out of 4,279 vessels that entered the port in 1862, 1,293 were steamers; 794 of these British. The importance of Gibraltar as a station for procuring "coals" and provisions, as well as a harbour for sailing vessels unable to get from the Mediterranean through the straits with a west wind, cannot be overrated.

The return of coal does not include that received either for Her Majesty's Navy or Troops.

Tobacco is chiefly imported for local consumption. Small parcels are sent to the Canaries, Malta, Italy, and Algeria.

Under the head of sundries are articles too many to particularize.

The exports of specie are chiefly to Morocco, to pay for the produce shipped there for different countries. The traders in Morocco, having no knowledge of banking transactions, all payments have to be made in this manner.

The trade with Morocco is increasing annually.

The wool alone exported from thence last year to England, France, Belgium, and the United States amounted to from 25,000 to 30,000 bales, whilst large quantities of cereals, seeds, wax, and oil are likewise exported.

Gibraltar being a free port, it has been impossible to arrive at exact statistics on either imports or exports, except in the case of wines, spirits, and tobacco introduced for consumption in the garrison; but the return annexed I believe to be a close approximation to the actual amounts under their different heads.

It has been difficult to arrive at the precise amount of exports, inasmuch as a considerable trade is carried on by Moors, who arrive to purchase, and remain but a few days. From these no returns could be obtained.

The transit trade of Gibraltar, and which is included in the return, amounts to 600,000*l.* sterling, four-fifths of which comes from the United Kingdom.

Many of the mercantile firms here have agents at the different ports on the coast of Morocco, through whom they carry on a very large direct trade with England, France,

GIBRALTAR. Italy, the United States, Spain, and Portugal, in wool, grain, bees-wax, oil, and seeds, probably amounting to one million sterling per annum, and which is carried on exclusively with the capital of British merchants.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G. (Signed) S. FREELING,
&c. &c. &c. Colonial Secretary.

MALTA.

MALTA.

No. 26.

No. 26. COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. G. LE MARCHANT to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 33.)

MY LORD DUKE, Palace, Valletta, May 22, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Malta for the year 1862, to the usual items of which has been added, for the purpose of giving additional statistical information, certain abstracts from the Census of 1861; and to subjoin a statement in regard to the revenue and expenditure of these Islands during that year, which has been furnished by the Auditor General.

2. The gross revenue of Malta during the five years immediately preceding 1862 was—

	£	
1857 - -	132,681	
1858 - -	142,350	
1859 - -	147,385	Average, say £142,500.
1860 - -	145,944	
1861 - -	144,344	

3. The gross revenue of 1862 was 153,806*l.* 16*s.* 2¼*d.*, being in round numbers 11,036*l.* above the average of the five preceding years, and 9,672*l.* more than the revenue of 1861. This increase is chiefly in customs dues, rents of Crown property, and sales of property; the latter amounting to 556*l.* 17*s.* 5½*d.*

4. The receipts of the two principal branches of revenue named, rents of Crown property and customs dues, as compared with 1861, were—

—	1861.	1862.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Lands - - -	12,201 11 4¼	12,545 16 8½	334 5 4¼	—
Houses - - -	21,735 15 2¼	23,879 2 9¼	2,143 7 7	—
	33,937 6 6½	36,424 19 5¾	2,487 12 11¼	—
Imports - - -	87,277 3 7	93,466 12 7	6,189 9 0	—
Tonnage Dues - -	5,530 15 6	5,478 17 6	—	51 18 0
Store Rent - - -	1,851 6 8	1,775 7 4	—	75 19 4
	94,659 5 9	100,720 17 5	6,189 9 0	127 17 4

showing an aggregate increase of 8,549*l.* 4*s.* 7¼*d.*

5. The provision made for the year was—

—	Establishment.	Exclusive of Establishment.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General Estimate - - - - £	66,348 13 8	79,984 0 3	146,332 13 11
Supplemental Ordinance No. II. of 1863, not yet approved by the Queen - - -	221 13 5	35,291 2 4	35,512 15 9
	66,570 7 1	115,275 2 7	181,845 9 8
Reserved Balance of Special Services under the directions of the Secretaries of State -	—	521 6 7	521 6 7
	66,570 7 1	115,796 9 2	182,366 16 3

6. The gross expenditure in 1862 was :—

	£	s.	d.
Local charges, exclusive of remittances to the agents-general	145,262	19	11
Agents-general's account	3,409	19	7
	£148,672	19	6

being 3,831*l.* less than the revenue of the year, exclusive of the dividends on stock in consols which are reinvested for a special purpose.

7. The expenditure on account of services, which for purposes of calculation may be fairly considered as charges against surplus capital, was :—

	£	s.	d.
Grain fosses	611	18	4
Tank at Casal Dingli	198	2	9
New market	3,323	18	9
Opera house	3,053	1	0
Palace corridors	354	0	0
New poorhouse and hospital of incurables	564	16	7
Civil powder magazine	826	16	10
Wing to Corradino Prison	429	8	6
Cemetery San Guiseppe Road	326	0	11
Lunatic Asylum	50	0	0
Cemetery at Tal Hor	41	2	0
Road from Migiano to Rabato Gozo	400	0	0
Road tal Palma	277	15	10
Road ta Ridolfo at St. Julian's	380	0	0
Road Casal Luca	222	12	0
Road Croce della Marsa	547	6	0
Exhibition expenses	170	18	10
Census expenses	190	6	10
	11,968	5	2

Some of these charges were included in the general estimates of the year as chargeable against the revenue of the year.

8. No claim was made in 1862 by the Imperial Government on account of instalments for the construction of the new harbour.

9. The actual state of the finances of Malta at the close of 1862 will be seen from the following statement :—

		£	s.	d.
Gross surplus capital on 31st December 1861		31,261	1	2½
Add revenue, local	£152,503 5 7¼			
Agents-general	1,303 10 7			
		153,806	16	2¼
		185,067	17	4¾
Deduct expenditure, local	£145,262 19 11			
„ Agents General	3,409 19 7			
		148,672	19	6
Actual surplus		36,394	17	10¾

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. LE MARCHANT,
Governor.

His Grace The Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Ionian Islands.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

No. 27.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Lord High Commissioner to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.

(No. 167.)

My Lord Duke, Corfu, November 25, 1863.

I have the honour to transmit to your Grace the Blue Book for 1862, together with the Report thereon.

The other two copies of the Blue Book will be forwarded by the first opportunity by way of Liverpool.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) H. K. STORKS.

Enclosure in No. 27.

Report on the Blue Book for the financial Year 1862, ending 31st of January 1863.

Revenue.

Increase.

The several items showing an increase of revenue over last year are the following:—

Export duty on oil.
Do. on currants.
Import duty on tobacco.
Do. on grain.
Sale of gunpowder.
Health office tariff receipts.
Post office.
Dogana warehouse rents.
Mortgage dues.
Printing office receipts.
Public instruction receipts.
Miscellaneous.

The increased amount of duty collected on the oil exported this year over that of last, amounting to 15,208*l.* 18*s.* 7½*d.*, is to be attributed to a better crop of olives this year than the year before.

The amount of export duty collected on currants this year shows an increase of 5,217*l.* 1*s.* 11½*d.* over last. This is to be attributed to the same cause as that on olive oil.

The increased amount of duty levied on grain imported into the islands, viz., 1,881*l.* 3*s.* $7\frac{7}{10}$*d.*, is caused by a larger quantity of foreign grain having been consumed by the population, owing to better crops of the staple produce of the country, viz., currants and olive oil.

The increase of 237*l.* 11*s.* $10\frac{3}{10}$*d.* in Porto Franco warehouse rents is caused by a larger quantity of merchandize having been kept in deposit this year.

The 404*l.* 12*s.* $1\frac{1}{10}$*d.*, which appears as an increase in the comparative return of this year over last, is to be attributed to greater exactness in levying educational dues.

The other items showing a small increase, viz., 27*l.* 11*s.* $8\frac{6}{10}$*d.* import duty on tobacco; 105*l.* 0*s.* $9\frac{9}{10}$*d.*, sale of gunpowder; 161*l.* 7*s.* $7\frac{3}{10}$*d.*, health office receipts; 75*l.* 1*s.* $7\frac{9}{10}$*d.*, post office receipts; 17*l.* 3*s.* $7\frac{6}{10}$*d.*, mortgage dues; 15*l.* 7*s.* $3\frac{4}{10}$*d.*, printing office receipts; 69*l.* 4*s.* $11\frac{6}{10}$*d.*, miscellaneous,—are casualties for which no definite reason can be given.

Decreased Revenue.

The items showing a decrease this year are as follows:—

Customs.
Export duty on island wines.
Import duty on foreign wines and spirits.
Stamp duties.
Police receipts for dues.
Judicial receipts for dues.
Steam packet freights.

The cause of the decrease in the custom receipts this year, 631*l.* 5*s.* $2\frac{7}{10}$*d.*, is in consequence of a diminution in commercial operations, pending the union of the Ionian Islands with Greece.

The diminution of 156*l.* 15*s.* $3\frac{7}{10}$*d.* in the export duty on island wines is to be attributed to a failure of the vintage in the several islands.

The decreased revenue received on foreign wines and spirits, viz., 170*l.* 2*s.*, is caused by a less quantity having been imported this year, large deposits having remained on hand from the year previous.

The decrease arising in stamp duties, 375*l.* 17*s.* $9\frac{1}{10}$*d.*, is caused by less demand for stamped paper this year, in consequence of less litigation. The same reason would appear to account for the decrease in police and judicial dues, which amount to 351*l.* 5*s.* $2\frac{8}{10}$*d.*

The 10*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* in steam packet freights is a casualty.

EXPENDITURE.

Increase.

The items showing an increased expenditure this year over last are as follows:—

Legislative Assembly.
Civil establishment.
Judicial establishment.
Packet service, &c.
Contingent expenditure of the General and Local Governments.

The increase of 1147*l.* 16*s.* $6\frac{3}{10}$*d.* in the item headed "Legislative Assembly" is caused by a larger number of assistants having been voted by the assembly for the purpose of providing places for friends. A general election has also tended to augment the expenditure under this head, the increase of 730*l.* 3*s.* $8\frac{2}{10}$*d.* in the item Civil Establishment, and that of 458*l.* 5*s.* $6\frac{2}{10}$*d.* in the Judicial Establishment, arises from the same cause, viz., an increased expenditure voted for each in the new civil list.

The increased expenditure of 267*l.* 18*s.* $1\frac{6}{10}$*d.* under the item Packet Service is a casualty.

The large increase of expenditure under the head of Contingent Expenditure of the General and Local Governments is accounted for by the payment of pensions from the general revenue, instead of from the old pension funds, which is exhausted.

Decrease.

The items which show a decrease this year are the following:—

Education.
Rents of public offices.
Public works.
Collection of revenue.
Health office, lazzaretto, and lighthouse.
Post offices.
Executive police.
Courts of justice and prisons.
} Contingencies.

The decrease of 559*l.* 16*s.* $2\frac{5}{10}$*d.* under the head of Education is in consequence of the transfer of this expenditure to the separate civil list for education, and to the greater vigilance exercised over the expenditure of country schools.

The decrease in rents, amounting to 101*l.* 2*s.* $7\frac{9}{10}$*d.*, is to be attributed to the exercise of greater economy in this branch of service.

The decrease in the item Public Works, amounting to 697*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, is to be attributed to the limited number of public works undertaken during the year.

	£	s.	d.
The decreased expenditure under the items of contingencies for the collection of revenue, &c.	278	6	$4\frac{4}{10}$
Health office, &c.	141	11	$10\frac{9}{10}$
Post offices	42	16	$8\frac{5}{10}$
Executive police	685	10	$11\frac{5}{10}$
Court of Justice	138	14	$9\frac{8}{10}$

and that which appears under the head of Prisons may be accounted for by greater care having been taken in preventing undue expenditure in all these branches of the service.

POPULATION.

The population during this year appears to be nearly the same as that of last year. This is to be attributed in a great measure to a great mortality among children in Corfu from scarlatina, and a number of aliens having left the islands.

EDUCATION.

The public schools in the several islands this year appear to have been better attended, in the same ratio as the private schools have fallen off.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The imports of this year over last show an increased value of 36,456*l.*, and the exports a much larger increased value, viz., a difference of 207,298*l.*

Last year the estimated value of imports amounted to 1,236,657*l.*, this year to 1,273,113*l.*

The exports of last year only amounted to an estimated value of 901,221*l.*; whereas this year the value is put at 1,108,519*l.*

GENERAL.

The financial condition of the Ionian States shows a considerable improvement during the year. The crops were rather above the average, and the prices obtained for oil and currants were better

IONIAN ISLANDS.

than in the preceding year, but the general prosperity of the islands must not be overlooked as a conducive cause, and a more exact collection of the public revenue, and a careful supervision of the expenditure, have contributed to the improvement referred to.

(Signed) EDWARD F. BARR,
Acting Secretary to the Lord High Commissioner.

Corfu Palace, November 25, 1863.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 28.

HELIGOLAND.

No 28.

[Not received.]

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 29.

(No. 27.)

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 29.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MACKENZIE to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

Government House, Falkland Islands,
February 20, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the annual Blue Book for the year 1862.

2. The marked increase in the colonial revenue and expenditure need some explanation. The revenue amounts to 2,011*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* above the receipts of the preceding year; but this is attributable to the infliction of a fine of 1,080*l.* on the Falkland Island Company for illegal cattle killing. The revenue was considerably augmented also by the increased sale of Government property, and the repayment of advances for the relief of distressed seamen, under the head of Miscellaneous Receipts. The increase of 914*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* in the expenditure was chiefly owing to the remission of a portion of the above fine.

3. The imports and exports do not differ materially from the accounts of the preceding year.

4. In order that the unusually high per-centage of burials in the past year might not lead to the erroneous impression that the Colony was becoming unhealthy, an explanatory note has been appended to the return, showing that of 21 burials 5 were deaths in vessels in harbour, and 6 were sudden deaths, thus reducing the number of deaths from natural causes to 10, being the same as last year.

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.

5. I am glad to be able to report that the new land and cattle regulations, copies of which I beg to enclose, are working very favourably in the Colony.

6. Before concluding this Despatch, I would briefly advert to the tables of shipping, which show an aggregate tonnage of vessels of all nations visiting this Colony in the past year, for repairs and provisions, amounting to 34,438 tons, being an increase over the preceding year of 13,111 tons. So marked an increase gives me a greater confidence in hoping that the advantages of this port as a harbour of refuge for shipping distressed in these distant latitudes is becoming more universally known, and will henceforth be more generally availed of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. MACKENZIE,
Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1 in No. 29.

Enclosure 1 in No. 29.

PROCLAMATION on GRAZING LEASES, 4th April 1861.

1. Any person may, on application to the Governor, and on payment of 5*l.* into the Colonial Treasury, obtain a licence to occupy a station.

2. Every such licence will be given in writing, and be for one year only, and not renewable.

3. Every station will contain as near 6,000 acres as may be convenient, having regard to natural boundaries. The boundaries of each station shall be determined by the Surveyor-General, with the approval of the Governor.

4. At any time before the expiration of the licence, the licensee may obtain a lease for 10 years of his station, at a rent of 10*l.* a year, provided he proves, to the satisfaction of the Governor, that he has built on the land a house of wood or stone walls not less than 24 feet by 12 feet, and 6 feet high, and has stocked the station with at least 50 cattle or horses or 100 sheep.

5. It will be a condition of the lease that during its continuance the station shall be kept stocked with at least the number of stock before specified, and also be occupied by the lessee or any person in his employment, and in case of any failure in this condition it shall be lawful for the Governor to resume possession of the station.

6. The lessee of any station must within five years from the date of his lease purchase, at the upset price of land for the time being (not exceeding 8*s.* an acre), a section containing not less than 160 acres, and may also at any time during his lease purchase any further quantity of land in his station at the same price.

7. If the lessee of any station under this proclamation, or under the proclamation issued by Governor Rennie on the 31st of July 1849, shall be desirous of obtaining an extension of his lease, he shall give notice thereof to the Governor six months before the expiration of his lease, and the Governor shall, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, determine whether it is expedient that the land shall be sold or reserved for any public purpose. If the land be not required for sale or otherwise, then the Governor may grant to the lessee an extension of his lease for five years, on the same terms as to rent and occupation as the first lease; provided that no lessee under the said proclamation of 31st July 1849 shall receive an extension of his lease for more than 6,000 acres, and provided also that no such lessee shall receive an extension of his lease unless all the districts leased by him are stocked and occupied in manner herein-before required.

8. Every lease under this proclamation, or the proclamation of the 31st July 1849, shall be transferable, subject only to the condition of giving notice of such transfer to the Colonial Secretary.

9. The rent of each station shall be paid by the lessee to the Colonial Secretary at Stanley, yearly, in advance, from the day of the grant of the lease; and if delay be made in such payment the Colonial Secretary shall, within two months after the rent is due, send notice thereof to the lessee (if in Stanley), and if the rent be not paid within one month after such notice, or (if the lessee be not resident in Stanley) if the rent be not paid within six months after it is due, the lease shall be null and void, and the Governor may resume possession of the station without making to the former lessee any compensation.

10. No licence shall be granted to occupy any station within six miles by land of Stanley, or of any township which may hereafter be proclaimed.

11. Every station leased and every block of land sold under these regulations shall be as far as possible of a square figure, of which not more than one side shall have available water frontage.

12. Every lease shall confer the right to use the land for pastoral purposes, and shall be subject to all such reservations as are contained in the printed Crown grants of land in this Colony, and the Governor shall have power at any time to proclaim a public road through any station.

13. No person shall be licensed under the first clause of this proclamation to occupy more than one station at the same time; and no lessee of any districts under the said proclamation of the 31st July 1849 shall be licensed to occupy a station unless the said districts shall be stocked and occupied in manner herein-before required.

14. Every station shall be defined with reference to the nautical chart of the Colony without requiring any further survey.

Published by order of his Excellency Governor Mackenzie,

(Signed) W. R. PYNE,
Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 2 in No. 29.

Encl. 2 in No. 29

PROCLAMATION respecting WILD CATTLE, 5th April 1861.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, hereby makes known that any person holding a licence or lease of a station under the proclamation of 4th of April 1861, and any person holding a grazing district under the proclamation of 31st of July 1849, if the same be actually occupied, may obtain a licence to capture and kill wild cattle for his own use, on the following conditions:—

1. Every person shall pay for each ox, bull, or cow captured 14*s.*, and for each calf running with the cow 1*s.*

2. Where it appears that the number of wild bulls is excessive, the Governor may grant to any holder of land as aforesaid permission to kill the same, on payment of 4*s.* each.

3. In order to prevent interference among different licensees, the Governor shall prescribe the limits within which each licensee may kill or capture cattle.

4. Every animal captured under these regulations shall be branded with the brand of the owner, which brand shall be registered in the office of the Colonial Secretary when the licence is issued.

5. Every person holding a licence under this proclamation shall make a declaration every six months of the number and description of animals killed or captured by him during the preceding six months, and pay the fees thereon to the Colonial Secretary.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

6. The licence of any person making a false declaration shall be revoked.

7. Every licence granted under these regulations, and the number and description of animals killed and captured under each licence, shall be published from time to time on the Government Gazette Board.

8. On sufficient cause being shown, the Governor may, if he thinks fit, grant to any person, not being a holder of land as aforesaid, a licence to kill on Crown lands such wild cattle as he may require for consumption only, on payment of a fee of 1*l.* for each animal.

Published by order of his Excellency Governor Mackenzie.

(Signed) W. R. PYNE,
Colonial Secretary.

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

THE

REPORTS

Made for the Year 1863 *to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies; in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1863.

PART I.—WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
7th February 1865.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1865.

10877.

SCHEDULE.

No. in Series.	Colony.	Page.
1	JAMAICA	4
2	BRITISH HONDURAS	13
3	BAHAMAS	13
4	TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS	18
5	TRINIDAD	22
6	BRITISH GUIANA	31
7	BARBADOS	33
8	GRENADA	38
9	TOBAGO	44
10	ST. VINCENT	49
11	ST. LUCIA	54
12	ANTIGUA	64
13	MONTSERRAT	83
14	ST. CHRISTOPHER AND ANGUILLA	88
15	NEVIS	92
16	VIRGIN ISLANDS	92
17	DOMINICA	94
18	MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES	94

PART I.

WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

JAMAICA.

No. 1.

JAMAICA.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor EYRE to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 237.)

SIR, King's House, Jamaica, August 12, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit (in duplicate) the annual Blue Book for the year ending the 31st December 1863, accompanied by the following remarks upon it.

2. Every exertion was made to bring out the Blue Book at an earlier period of the year, but, I regret to say, unsuccessfully, the first copy ready having only reached me yesterday.

3. Some improvements will, I hope, be found both in the preparation of the information it contains and in getting up the work, which now makes its appearance only for the second time in a printed form.

4. *Revenue.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The total revenue of the year ending 30th September 1862 was	291,164	19	9
The total revenue of the year ending 30th September 1863 was	293,353	11	8
Increase - - - - -	£ 2,188	11	11

But this increase is fictitious, and arises from sums raised by loan being put down as revenue.

In the two years' comparison, the sums thus received and inserted under the head of revenue were,—

	1862.	1863.
Loan, 21 & 22 Vict. - - - - -	450*l.*	Nil
Tramroad Acts, 1858–9, Debentures - -	Nil	4,700*l.*
Loan, 26 Vict. c. 20. s. 2. - - - -	Nil	300*l.*
	£ 450	£5,000

Showing that 4,550*l.* more of borrowed money was included as revenue in 1863 than in 1862.

The true comparison of the revenue of the two years is better shown by stating that in 1863 there was a decrease in receipts from,—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs tonnage dues of - - -	1,192	9	7
Import Duty Act - - - -	1,083	1	0
Stamp Duty Act - - - -	1,227	5	5
Transient poor hospital tax - - -	165	7	9
Still licences - - - -	368	9	0
Fire-arms Act - - - -	142	0	8
Ordinary's fees - - - -	301	1	0
Post Office - - - - -	371	4	8
Export duties, additional - - -	732	13	8
Poundages - - - - -	48	16	2
Miscellaneous sources - - -	545	13	3
Morant Point lighthouse - - -	144	9	4
	£ 6,322	11	6

But an increase in receipts from,—

Rum Duty Act of - - - -	1,587	11	4
Penitentiary and prison sales - -	957	16	0
Spirit licences - - - -	960	0	0
Breeding stock and horses - - -	959	3	1
Fines in Petty Sessions - - -	149	10	6
Market dues - - - -	101	18	8
	£ 4,715	19	7

Showing an absolute falling off of gross revenue exceeding 1,600*l.*; besides which the refund of duties was greater in 1863 by 588*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* than it was in 1862, so that the actual decrease of income was above 2,000*l.*, due, no doubt, to the unfavourable crops of some of the staple articles, in consequence of which exportation was diminished and the demand for supplies lessened.

5. *Expenditure.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The total expenditure of the year ended 30th September 1862 was	292,479	8	0
The total expenditure of the year ended 30th September 1863 was	302,285	11	10
Increase	£ 9,806	3	10

In 1863 there was an increased outlay,—

In collecting revenue of	853	19	4
In civil expenditure	1,515	14	6
In Courts of Jurisdiction	4,864	16	10
By Governor and Privy Council	148	19	8
For Legislative Council	138	13	6
For forts and fortifications	228	1	6
For perpetual annuity, 26 Vict. c. 21. (the new Annuity Fund)	706	3	4
In paying off loan under 18 Vict. c. 60.	2,250	0	0
In parochial contingencies	3,789	18	2
On account of tramway	4,656	10	0
In appropriation for a fund for colonising immigrants	1,750	0	0
In repairs of public buildings in parishes	1,860	19	8
In repairs of public buildings under 26 Vict. s. 2. c. 5.	219	8	0
	£22,983	4	6

But there was a decreased outlay in,—

Military expenditure	550	18	9
Ecclesiastical expenditure	202	2	10
Assembly expenditure	197	1	3
General expenditure	161	3	3
Executive Committee expenditure	409	5	5
Usher of Black Rod's expenditure	48	6	8
Interest on loan, 18 Vict. c. 60.	75	0	0
Parochial salaries and Coroners	441	6	7
Parochial arrears and compensation	393	11	0
Perpetual annuity (the old Annuity Fund)	2,025	6	4
Loan from general revenue for main road purposes, 25 Vict. c. 47.	8,600	0	0
	£13,104	2	1

Which, deducted from the former amount of 22,983*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, shows an absolute increase of expenditure exceeding 9,800*l.*, much of which is due to an increase of crime and pauperism, to the additional expenses at the lunatic asylum, to repairs of public buildings, and to an increased cost of collecting revenue, &c. &c.

6. *Public Debt.*

The following sums have been paid off during the year:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Guaranteed loan, 17 Vict. c. 29.	10,000	0	0
Immigration guaranteed loan, 15 Vict. c. 39.	2,437	6	0
Immigration guaranteed loan, 15 & 16 Vict. (2d moiety)	1,775	0	0
Loan, 18 Vict. c. 60.	1,500	0	0
Loan, 18 Vict. c. 60., Kingston and Anotto Bay junction road	1,100	0	0
Loan, 21 Vict. c. 44. and 22 Vict. c. 24.	1,600	0	0
	£18,412	6	0

JAMAICA

The following additional loans have been taken up:—	£	s.	d.
Loan for the Curates' Fund	1,195	16	8
Loan for the Rectors' Fund	121	2	5
Main road new loan, 24 Vict. c. 26.	9,077	0	0
Loan, 26 Vict. sess. 2. c. 5.; further loan to main roads	12,000	0	0
Immigration Loan Act, 1858	11,388	0	0
Loan, 26 Vict. sess. 2. cap. 20., repairs of public and parochial buildings	300	0	0
Tramroad Acts, 1858 and 1862	4,700	0	0
	£38,781	19	1

Showing that the Public Debt of the Colony has been increased during the year by 20,369*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*, chiefly on account of immigration and roads.

7. *Military Expenditure.*

The expenditure by the Colony amounted to 2,845*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*; that by Great Britain to 156,660*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*

8. *Public Works.*

Various public works have been carried on during the year, involving an expenditure of upwards of 22,530*l.*, chiefly for repairs or additions to public or parochial buildings or bridges, and including 4,925*l.* advanced under a Local Statute to the Company which undertook to construct a tramway between Spanish Town and Porus. The expenditure on account of the roads (exclusive of bridges) have been about 6,000*l.* during the year.

9. *Legislation.*

Forty-three Acts were passed during the year. The most important of these are—

"An Act for the Settlement of the 200,000*l.* Loan due by the Island to Great Britain."

"An Act vesting in Her Majesty the Forts and Fortifications near Port Royal, and granting a perpetual annuity of 600*l.* per annum in consideration of their being kept up by Her Majesty's Government."

"An Act for the Abolition of Toll Gates throughout the Island."

"An Act to provide for registering duly qualified Medical Practitioners."

"An Act to establish a Tribunal under the report of which the Board of Trade may cancel or suspend Certificates of Masters or Mates of British Merchant Vessels."

And various Acts renewing, amending, or repealing other Acts on various subjects of general or local interest.

10. *Political Franchise.*

Remains unaltered, and consists, first, of a clear annual income (after paying all debts) of 150*l.* from lands held by voter or voter's wife; second, a clear annual income of 200*l.* arising partly from lands as aforesaid and partly from any income from office or business (deducting all charges or expenses of such office or business); third, a clear annual income of 300*l.*, arising from office or business as aforesaid; fourth, the payment annually of taxes to the value of 10*l.*

11. *Councils and Assembly.*

The Privy Council consists of 15 members.
The Legislative Council consists of 17 members.
The House of Assembly consists of 47 members.

12. *Population.*

No census has been taken since May 1861. The returns then were 213,521 males, and 227,743 females, the females being in excess of the male population by nearly 7 per cent. The white population at the same time was 13,816, or in the proportion of one white to 32 black or coloured.

13. *Miscellaneous Returns.*

There are seven Savings Banks, with 2,222 depositors, and the united deposits amount to 58,156*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*

The number of immigrants in this Colony amounts to 5,723, of whom 1,656 are captured Africans, and 4,067 are Coolies.

During the year ending 31st December 1863 there were introduced into the Colony 533 liberated Africans and 541 Coolies.

14. *Ecclesiastical Returns.*

The following are the returns given by the different denominations:—

—	Church Accommodation.	Persons generally attending.
Church of England - - - -	48,824	36,300
Baptist - - - - -	33,846	26,126
Wesleyan - - - - -	41,495	36,730
Presbyterian - - - - -	12,675	9,457
Moravian Mission - - - -	11,000	9,500
London Missionary Society - - -	8,050	6,780
Roman Catholics - - - -	3,220	1,800
American Mission - - - -	1,350	860
Hebrew - - - - -	1,300	170
Church of Scotland - - - -	900	400
	162,660	128,063

15. *Education.*

The subjoined statement gives a general summary of the educational establishments:—

Number of Schools.	Denomination.	Number of Scholars.
127	Established Church - - - -	8,552
47	Moravians - - - - -	3,578
66	Jamaica Baptist Union - - -	3,456
42	Wesleyan Methodist - - -	2,530
43	United Presbyterian - - -	3,126
19	London Missionary Society - - -	1,108
26	Endowed Schools - - - -	2,592
8	United Methodist Free Church - -	502
9	American Mission - - - -	388
5	Roman Catholics - - - -	215
1	Church of Scotland - - - -	120
		26,167

16. *Imports.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The total imports in 1862 amounted in value to -	1,141,983	18	10
The total imports in 1863 amounted in value to -	1,087,529	0	5
Decrease - - - - -	54,454	18	5

JAMAICA.

There has been a decreased importation of—

	£	s.	d.
Arms and Ammunition to the value of	130	19	0
Books to the value of	360	9	10
Bread „	1,953	1	10
Bricks „	1,040	14	7
Butter „	16,162	8	0
Candles „	2,576	11	6
Corn „	1,941	10	11
Corn Meal „	9,044	7	3
Cotton Goods to the value of	354	10	0
Fish of all kinds „	20,989	8	4
Goods non-enumerated „	30,748	0	2
Indigo to the value of	282	8	7
Machinery „	3,368	5	9
Manure „	1,324	13	5
Shooks „	10,246	17	6
Spirits, Brandy, to the value of	323	6	11
Steam Engines „	1,592	8	6
Wood Hoops „	781	17	9
Wood Lumber „	1,382	19	8
Wool, Cotton „	3,945	3	3
Ad Valorem Goods „	13,691	3	6
	£122,241	6	3

But there has been an increased importation of—

	£	s.	d.
Ale and Beer to the value of	11,881	2	6
Apparel to the value of	899	0	0
Beef „	1,140	16	2
Blacking „	387	2	3
Blue „	676	12	2
Carts and Carriages to the value of	2,293	19	6
Cheese to the value of	791	18	10
Coals „	5,820	0	0
Drugs „	2,057	3	4
Florida Water „	195	9	10
Flour „	6,968	0	5
Haberdashery „	1,572	6	3
Hams and Bacon to the value of	1,127	13	9
Hardware to the value of	2,392	19	7
Hats, all kinds, „	335	6	9
Lard „	1,923	17	3
Leather Manufactures to the value of	2,053	12	2
Oils of all kinds „	445	15	3
Pork to the value of	5,095	1	10
Rice „	3,112	0	7
Segars „	240	14	0
Soap „	2,297	10	6
Spirits, Gin „	457	10	10
Tobacco „	2,175	19	10
Tongues „	1,741	11	0
Wines „	2,046	18	9
Wood, Manufactures of, to the value of	768	4	1
Wood, Staves, to the value of	1,888	8	4
Wood, Shingles, „	1,522	6	6
	£63,499	11	3

The differences in minor articles I have thought it unnecessary to give, though they make up a considerable sum in the aggregate.

17. *Exports.*

	£	s.	d.
The total exports in 1862 amounted in value to -	1,113,441	10	3
The total exports in 1863 amounted in value to -	1,007,924	18	11
Decrease - - - -	£105,516	11	4

There has been a decreased exportation of—	£	s.	d.
Beef to the value of - - - -	399	17	0
Copper, old „ - - - -	337	12	3
Drugs to the value of - - -	1,149	11	5
Earthenware „ - - -	388	14	6
Ginger „ - - -	2,573	12	6
Hardware „ - - -	287	7	2
Honey „ - - -	658	13	0
Horses „ - - -	320	0	0
Iron Nails „ - - -	1,306	12	3
Pork „ - - -	293	0	0
Spirits, Rum „ - - -	57,319	10	6
Succades „ - - -	1,148	4	0
Sugar „ - - -	83,746	9	11
Wood, various „ - - -	20,321	19	1
Wool, Cotton „ - - -	1,977	10	4
	£172,228	13	11

But there has been an increased exportation of—	£	s.	d.
Arms and Ammunition to the value of -	858	17	9
Arrowroot to the value of - - -	268	2	8
Cattle „ - - -	1,480	0	0
Coffee „ - - -	51,562	5	9
Cottons, various „ - - -	748	4	2
Flour „ - - -	1,001	7	0
Haberdashery „ - - -	275	12	11
Hides „ - - -	293	7	4
Leather, Manufactures of, to the value of -	328	11	11
Linens, various, to the value of - -	722	17	11
Merchandise, non-enumerated, to the value of	1,318	12	7
Mules, to the value of - - -	1,596	0	0
Pimento „ - - -	3,522	14	9
Private Effects to the value of - -	632	10	0
Rice „ - -	220	19	3
Spirits, Brandy „ - -	349	3	6
Turtle, preserved „ - -	380	10	0
Wine „ - -	295	19	0
Woollens „ - -	727	12	4
	£66,683	8	10

The falling off has been principally in the chief staple exports of the Colony, sugar, rum, succades, and ginger; but there has been an increased exportation of coffee and pimento.

18. *Shipping.*

The imports and exports of the Colony having both been less in 1863 than in 1862, there has been of course a corresponding decrease in the shipping.

—	Number of Vessels.	Number of Tons.	Number of Men.
1862 -	506	112,642	5,160
1863 -	524	122,753	5,810
Decrease -	18	10,111	650

19. *Manufactories, Mines, and Fisheries.*

There are no other manufactories than sugar, rum, molasses, and arrowroot. No mines at work and no fisheries.

20. *Gaols and Prisons.*

In 1862 there were committed	-	-	-	3,604
In 1863 „	-	-	-	4,239
Increase	-	-	-	635

Showing a large increase of crime, chiefly for theft. On this subject I propose addressing you separately before very long.

21. *Charitable Institutions.*

Public Hospital.

The daily average number of patients was 176, and the total number treated during the year 1,830. There were also 10,538 prescriptions made up for outdoor pauper patients during the same period.

The cost of the establishment was 8,540*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*

Lunatic Asylum.

The daily average number of inmates was 151. The total number treated during the year amounted to 241. The cost of the establishment was 5,247*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*

General and Marine Hospital, Montego Bay.

The daily average number of inmates was 6¼. The total number of persons treated was 92.

The cost of the establishment was 424*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*

St. George's Almshouse, Kingston.

The number of inmates during the year was 27. The cost of the establishment was 285*l.* 16*s.*

St. George's Reformatory for Boys.

The total number of inmates during the year was 146. The cost of the establishment was 2,089*l.* 15*s.*

Kingston and St. Andrew's Reformatory for Girls.

The number of inmates during the year was 87. The cost of the establishment was 1,068*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*

Kingston Nurse Training Institution.
For teaching Nurses Midwifery.

Sixty-six patients were admitted during the year. Three nurses obtained certificates of competency during the year, and four were under training on 31st December 1863. The cost of the establishment was 330*l.* 4*s.*

Independently of these and some other charitable institutions, relative to which no return has been received, a sum of between 22,000*l.* and 23,000*l.* out of the general revenue was expended by the different parochial authorities during the year 1863.

22. Taking into consideration the fact that the year 1863 was one of considerable depression as regards the large proprietors and the chief staple articles of export, owing both to a falling off in the crops and to a lessened value of the produce, I think it is satisfactory to find that the resources of the country were not much more diminished, whilst it proves that the small settlers and peasantry are rapidly taking an important position in the colony, and both contribute considerably to the export of coffee and minor productions, and consume largely imported goods, the duties upon which constitute the principal source of revenue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. EYRE.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor EYRE to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 303.)

SIR, King's House, December 19, 1864.

IN connexion with the Blue Book Report for 1863, I have the honour to transmit "a Return showing the result of the last elections of Members of Assembly for the "different parishes of Jamaica."

2. This return ought to have been embodied in the Blue Book itself, and I have given directions that it shall be so inserted in future.

3. It is useful in showing the proportion of the population who have a voice in returning the Members of the Representative Assembly.

4. According to the last Census (1861) the population amounted to nearly half a million (441,264).

The present returns show that the number of persons qualified to vote at elections of Members of Assembly were 1,903, whilst the actual number of voters who returned the 47 Members of Assembly of the last elections only amounted to 1,457, that is, 1,457 selected the Representatives who constitute the House of Assembly, whilst 436,807 had no voice or influence at all in such selection, and yet Jamaica is said to possess Representative Institutions.

5. It will be observed that for one parish (St. Thomas in the Vale) a larger number of voters voted, than there were voters on the Registry List; I am unable to explain this, but it is manifestly owing to the neglect and carelessness of the returning officer.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) E. EYRE.

A RETURN showing the Result of the last Elections of Members of Assembly for the different Parishes in Jamaica.

Parish.	Date of Election.	Names of the Candidates.	Whether elected or not.	No. of Votes for each Candidate.	Total No. of Voters who voted at the Election.	No. of Voters on the Register.	Remarks.
St. Catherine -	9th Feb. 1863	William Thomas March -	Elected -	60	60	106	Resigned, A. H. Lewis elected 1863.
		Francis Robertson Lynch -	Do. -	60			
		Charles Hamilton Jackson -	Do. -	60			
St. John - -	12th Feb. 1863	Isaac Levy - - -	Elected -	21	23	26	
		Peter Alexander Espeut -	Do. -	14			
		Charles Anthony Price -	Not elected	9			
St. Dorothy -	10th March 1863	Edmund Leahy - -	Elected -	72	100	125	
		David Smith - -	Do. -	65			
		Andrew Henry Lewis -	Not elected	42			
		Isaac Lawton - -	Do. -	20			
St. Thomas ye Vale	23d Feb. 1863	Edward Kinkead - -	Elected -	39	41	35	
		Hiam Barrow - -	Do. -	29			
		Isaac Lawton - -	Not elected	11			
Clarendon - -	5th March 1863	Jacob Jacob Sanguinetti -	Elected -	27	31	42	
		Moses Bravo - -	Do. -	27			
Vere - - -	16th Feb. 1863	Charles McLarty Morales -	Elected -	21	21	35	
		James Harvey - -	Do. -	22			
Manchester -	20th Feb. 1863	John Reed Hollingsworth -	Elected -	21	21	48	
		Michael Muirhead - -	Do. -	20			
St. Mary - -	17th Feb. 1863	Alexander Joseph Lindo -	Elected -	29	29	37	
		George Geddes - -	Do. -	29	- -	- -	Called to the Council. Jas. M. Ferguson elected 30th Oct. 1863.

JAMAICA.

Parish.	Date of Election.	Names of the Candidates.	Whether elected or not.	No. of Votes for each Candidate.	Total No. of Voters who voted at the Election.	No. of Voters on the Register.	Remarks.
St. Ann - -	24th Feb. 1863	George Solomon -	Elected -	25			
		Henry Bridgwater Shaw -	Do. -	25	30	52	Resigned. S. W. Mais elected 5th Nov. 1863.
Kingston - -	11th Feb. 1863	Lewis Quier Bowerbank -	Elected -	224	413	541	Resigned. H. F. Colhurst elected 15th Nov. 1864.
		Edward Jordon - -	Do. -	303	- -	-	Resigned. A. L. Malabre elected 15th Nov. 1864.
		Charles Levy - -	Do. -	244			
		James Scott - -	Not elected	217			
St. Andrew -	10th Feb. 1863	John Nunes - -	Elected -	23	35	45	
		Robert Osborne - -	Do. -	34			
		Stephen Weis Mais -	Not elected	20			
Port Royal - -	3d March 1863	David Judah Alberga -	Elected -	75	110	114	
		Robert Alexander Johnson -	Do. -	64			
		George Henderson - -	Do. -	64			
		Stephen Weis Mais -	Not elected	61			
St. David - -	19th Feb. 1863	Aaron Salom - -	Elected -	108	162	189	
		Samuel Constantine Burke -	Do. -	114			
		William Drummond Jones -	Not elected	94			
St. George - -	4th March 1863	William Hosack - -	Elected -	28	29	36	
		Roger Surre - -	Do. -	29			
St. Thomas ye East	9th March 1863	George William Gordon -	Elected -	80	90	103	
		William Payne Georges -	Do. -	67			
		James Scott - -	Not elected	21			
Portland - -	11th March 1863	Christopher Walters -	Elected -	38	73	80	
		Daniel Phillip Nathan -	Do. -	39			
		John Andrew Pillon -	Not elected	35			
		Edward Vickars - -	Do. -	36			
Metcalfe - -	25th Feb. 1863	Henry Westmoreland -	Elected -	25	26	43	
		George Scotland - -	Do. -	25	- -	- -	Resigned. Jas. Stewart elected 6th Nov. 1863.
Westmoreland -	16th March 1863	Hugh Anthony Whitelock -	Elected -	30	48	57	
		Joseph Stone Williams -	Do. -	25			
		J. W. Fraser - -	Not elected	23			
		Foster Davis - -	Do. -	17			
Hanover - -	18th March 1863	Ralph Harris - -	Elected -	24			
		Adolph Philipson - -	Do. -	24	25	36	
St. Elizabeth -	12th March 1863	Raynes Waite Smith -	Elected -	24	24	36	
		William Harriot Coke -	Do. -	24			
St. James - -	2d March 1863	Wellesley Bourke - -	Elected -	21	28	63	
		Henry Groves - -	Do. -	21			
Trelawny - -	26th Feb. 1863	George Cunningham -	Elected -	36	37	54	
		Robert Nunes - -	Do. -	36			
			47 Members		1,457	1,903	

J. AUGT. SULLIVAN,
P. M. G.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor EYRE to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 57.)

SIR, King's House, Jamaica, May 23, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Despatch received from the Lieutenant-Governor of British Honduras, forwarding the Blue Book for 1863.

British Honduras. No. 88 of May 11, 1864.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) E. EYRE.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Lieutenant-Governor AUSTIN to Governor EYRE.

(No. 55.)

SIR, Government House, Belize, May 11, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1863, and regret that it gives no information on such important points as granted and ungranted, cultivated and uncultivated lands, crops, stock, and improvements in agriculture and machinery.

2. In regard to the first, I apprehend that, without the expense of a complete survey, occupying two or three years, no very accurate estimate is likely to be formed of what amount of acreage has passed from or still remains to the Crown; but in other respects I hope the return of next year (when I shall have become more thoroughly acquainted with the position and progress of the Colony) will be more perfect.

I have, &c.

His Excellency E. Eyre, Esq., &c. &c. (Signed) J. GARDINER AUSTIN.

BAHAMAS.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Governor NESBITT to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 64.)

SIR, Government House, Nassau, October 17, 1864.

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward to you the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1863.

2. The abnormal state of the trade of this Colony has retarded its completion.

3. The rate of taxation has not varied during the last 10 years, except that steam vessels and vessels importing coals are now liable to tonnage duties, and that one-half per cent. was imposed in the present year on merchandise "entered for warehousing," on exportation; and all merchant vessels are liable to the tonnage duty, entering inwards and outwards respectively, except where the cargo consists entirely of Bahama produce.*

22 Vict. c. 23. s. 1. 26 Vict. c. 3. 27 Vict. c. 37, s. 3.

4. The revenue for the year 1863 was 74,511*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* while the expenditure was, including debt liquidated, 53,409*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*

5. The public debt has been much diminished, and will be, probably, entirely paid off about the close of the current year, if not before. The original amount of debt was 43,786*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* of which 8,860*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* was paid off in 1863, and 28,412*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* in the present year.

6. Criminal offences have considerably increased, particularly burglary and larceny.

In a recent report of the Provost Marshal he says, that while in the year 1851 the average number of prisoners in gaol was but 13, they now average 100.

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* *Note.*—The Act referred to has been objected to by Her Majesty's Government, and has not been confirmed.

BAHAMAS.

7. Among the prisoners for the above description of crimes many white seamen and other strangers must be included in the last above average.

8. The constitution of the Bahamas, until the year 1841, consisted of a Governor, Council, and Assembly; in that year, however, instead of one Council, two Councils were created, one termed the "Executive Council," the other the "Legislative Council," an improvement which introduced an element of harmony that has prevented any abrupt dissolution since, of the House of Assembly, formerly not infrequent. The Executive Council is composed chiefly of Members of the two Legislative Chambers, nine Members being its complement, and the Colonial Secretary being *ex officio* its senior Member.

9. The Legislature is usually convened about the month of February, and terminates its session in April or May following.

10. The administrative duties of Government are facilitated by the appointment of Boards of Commissioners, with distinct functions in minor matters of detail.

11. Yellow fever occurred in the year 1863, principally between the months of May and November.

12. The mortality from this appalling disease from cases in the port and district of New Providence amounted to 21, while in the year 1862 they amounted to 106.

13. From the month of November to April inclusive, the Bahama climate possesses great attractions. The other months of the year are trying, and frequently fatal to the unacclimated. The total number of deaths from all causes in 1863 was 759; and births 1,322.

14. The Acts passed by the Bahama Legislature in the year 1863 were 22 in number. These were transmitted and reported upon in Governor Bayley's Despatch to your Predecessor in office, No. 92, of September 8th, 1863.

Lands, Woods, and Forests.

15. These have increased in value, because, owing to the interruption of trade by war, the value of timber, pitch, tar, turpentine, and rosin have very much enhanced in price owing to the blockade of the "Southern States."

16. In the Bahamas are four extensive pine forests, of the Conifera species, yielding the above-mentioned products.

17. These forests are chiefly Crown property; some of this land has latterly been sold at the rate of 10*s.* the acre, and licences have been granted to individuals to obtain tar and turpentine at the rate of 3*s.* 6*d.* a barrel, payable to the Crown, for the privilege.

18. A saw mill has been erected at Andros Island, and plank exported therefrom to Nassau, but the expense of transport in the absence of good roads renders it doubtful whether the speculation will be successful.

19. The operations of the Nassau public Bank have wonderfully increased, being for the year 1863 as follows:—

Receipts.	Payments.
£2,128,721	£1,988,665

20. The Surveyor-General has furnished me with a return of the value of labour during the last and present year, from which the following is extracted, showing how greatly it has risen at Nassau.

	1863.	1864.
Ship carpenters, per day	8*s.* to 10*s.*	10*s.* to 12*s.*
Labourers, coaling and stowing	6*s.* to 8*s.*	6*s.* to 8*s.*
Labourers, packing cotton	5*s.*	5*s.*
Watchmen, per night	4*s.*	6*s.*
House joiners, per day	5*s.* to 6*s.*	8*s.* to 10*s.*
Masons	6*s.* to 8*s.*	8*s.* to 10*s.*
Plasterers	6*s.* to 10*s.*	8*s.* to 10*s.*
Bricklayers	8*s.*	8*s.* to 10*s.*
Painters	6*s.* to 8*s.*	8*s.* to 10*s.*
Smiths	6*s.* to 8*s.*	8*s.* to 10*s.*
Labourers, cutting rock, per task, 6 × 2 feet	4*s.*	4*s.* to 5*s.*
Lime and coal burners	3*s.*	3*s.* to 4*s.*
Cutting bush, per day	3*s.*	3*s.* to 4*s.*
Grooms, per month	2*l.*	2*l.*
Cooks, per month	1*l.* 4*s.*	1*l.* 4*s.*
Dray drivers, per day	3*s.*	3*s.* to 4*s.*
Washerwomen, clothes, per doz.	3*s.*	3*s.* to 5*s.*

Grooms and domestic servants are much in demand, and the tendency of wages is to increase; and they have increased since the date of the Surveyor-General's Report.

25th Aug. 1864.

21. In a Report from the Police Magistrate of the district of Abaco, Mr. Brown informs me that the labour there for the production of fruit is usually performed by the proprietors of the lands with their families. That a few proprietors of pine apple lots employ labourers for cutting down the wood, clearing the land, weeding the pine fields, and reaping the fruit; for this the average rate of wages last year was as follows:—

For cutting the wood, clearing the land, and preparing it for planting pine apples, from 4*l.* to 4*l.* 10*s.* per acre.

For weeding the pine fields 4*s.* per day.

For reaping the pine apples and carrying them to the shipping place 5*s.* per day.

22. Mr. Brown adds, that there has been an advance on these rates during the year 1864, owing,—

1st, to the emigration of many labourers from Abaco to New Providence, where much higher rates of wages have prevailed.

2nd, to the employment of most of the male portion of the population in the gathering of sponge, because of the remunerative prices at which that article is being sold in Nassau, New Providence.

23. Mr. Brown adds, that house carpenters obtained last year from 4*s.* to 5*s.* per day; ship carpenters from 5*s.* to 6*s.* per day; and that these rates have advanced this year to 5*s.* and 6*s.* per day for house carpenters, and to 6*s.* and 8*s.* per day for ship carpenters; and that this has been occasioned by the advanced cost of living, owing to the increased price of food and clothing in consequence of the Civil War in America.

24. At Long Island the rate of wages for those engaged in and near the salt works, in raking the salt and in placing it on deposits, has been 2*s.* per diem, while in the shipment of salt, measuring, boating, &c., the average has been about 2*s.* 6*d.* per diem.

25. The Police Magistrate of the district of Long Island states that a great scarcity of labour has been experienced, both at Long Island and Rum Cay, during the whole of the year 1863, and still continues, and that during one part of the salt season, when the whole of the pans were covered with salt, 80 or 100 more labourers would have met with employment at 2*s.* each per diem.

Police Magistrate's Report of 15th August 1864.

The Police Magistrate adds, "since the cultivation of cotton has been commenced and "carried out so successfully, the labouring portion of the population (almost the whole of "whom are proprietors of small portions of land) find it more profitable to attend to the "cultivation of cotton on their own land."

26. The Police Magistrate in whose district Exuma is, states that on his recent tour, and "while at Little Exuma, the whole salt pond, and even the reservoir, was literally "covered with salt, and that there were no labourers to be procured to rake it; that "the salt remained in the pond for some length of time, and at length was restored "to nature which had so beneficently produced it."

27. In my Despatch, No. 50, of 22nd of August last, I forwarded to you, Sir, an extract from a Report of the Police Magistrate of the district of Long Island on the progress of the culture of cotton there, since which a company has been formed in New York for the extension of such culture at Long Island.

28. The principal other island in which cotton is extensively grown in this Colony is San Salvador.

29. The climate of the Bahamas is well adapted for cotton culture. There is also abundance of land suited to it, both Crown land and land belonging to private proprietors. I particularly alluded, in my above-mentioned Despatch, to the greater portion of land at Inagua being Crown property; that the price of Crown land is 10*s.* the acre (subject to competition at auction); that the area of Inagua is 657 square miles, with a population of only 994 in 1861. I may add that there is another island in the vicinity of Inagua, known as Mayaguana, with an area of about 100 square miles, the whole of which is Crown property, and the greater portion suited to cotton culture.

30. Labour, however, would be necessary for the purpose, obtained elsewhere than within the Colony, as the available amount of labour here cannot be relied on for agricultural purposes in islands not already well populated.

31. The lands of the Colony produce healthy cotton plants without manure for the first three years, but with the judicious use of manure the cotton plant will remain and flourish perennially on the same land.

32. One of the great advantages of cotton culture, is that the seed may be planted and reaped within the same year.

33. In the extract of Mr. Camplijohn's Report, which I forwarded with my Despatch, No. 50 of August last, it is mentioned that the cotton gins, kindly sent out by the Manchester Cotton Association in 1862, have turned out worthless, not one out of the six sent to

BAHAMAS.

his district proving of any use. The greatest quantity ginned in one day by one was five pounds. Mr. Camplijohn speaks highly of an American gin manufactured by the Messrs. McCarthy of Baltimore, also of native hand cotton gins made at Long Island, the larger of which will gin 50 lbs. of clean cotton in a day.

34. Were there a probability of the high prices of cotton continuing after the Civil War is over, no better investment of capital could be probably made than in planting cotton in the Bahama Islands by means of coolie or other imported labour, but if with peace, the price of cotton were to fall as low as it was before this war, the planting of cotton would, most likely, be here abandoned as no longer remunerative.

35. The blockade-running business by beautiful and swift steamers was very brisk during the year 1863, and continues so.

36. The value of imported merchandise into this Colony attained in the year 1862 to the unprecedented amount of 1,250,322*l.*, and is estimated for the year 1863 at 4,295,316*l.*

37. The value of merchandise exported from the Colony was estimated in the year 1862 at 1,007,755*l.*, and for the year 1863 at 3,368,567*l.*

38. The greater portion of merchandise imported is first placed in bonded warehouses, and is subject consequently to no duty whatever; it was thence exported also without payment of duty, Nassau for this trade having been practically a free port, with the exception of the tonnage duty on vessels, which does not affect such lucrative business.

39. Persons engaged in mercantile business or in professional pursuits are rapidly making fortunes, while persons with fixed incomes are material sufferers from the high prices of servants' wages and all the necessaries of life.

40. The value of landed property, particularly in the city and suburbs of Nassau, has enhanced generally from 300 to 400 per cent., and in good business situations much more, while rents have correspondingly increased.

41. Imperial lighthouses in progress at the Berry Islands and at Elbow Cay Abaco in the year 1863 have been completed, and are highly appreciated; they have already been and will continue to be very beneficial to commerce in these parts.

42. Great benefit has accrued since the commencement of the Civil War, from the Quarantine Station established at Athol Island, a few miles from Nassau.

43. The sick sailor is here admitted and kindly treated. Every attention has been paid to the due ventilation of the buildings at this salubrious station, to which if patients when first attacked were promptly removed, fever could be more readily subdued and their convalescence secured.

44. By the latest return, 6th Oct. 1864, it appears that during the present year 121 patients have been admitted, of whom 40 have died and 81 have recovered.

45. Many of those who died, died within 24 hours of admission.

46. I have received from the Surveyor-General and Civil Engineer of the Colony a descriptive Report of the Hospital at Athol Island, and I venture to append it to this Report as an interesting document.

47. I very much regret that from the unavoidable cause stated in the 2nd paragraph of this Report that the Blue Book for 1863 could not be prepared for transmission at an earlier period of this year, but I beg to explain that the most essential statistics in it, viz., returns of revenue and expenditure, of imports, exports, tonnage, and shipping, were only rendered to me by the Receiver-General on the date of this Despatch.

48. I may be permitted to add that from a similar cause Governor Bayley was unable to forward the Blue Book of 1862 until the 15th of October 1863.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) C. R. NESBITT,
Lieut.-Governor.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Surveyor-General's Office, July 16, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, in answer to your Honour's note of the 29th June requesting some account of the situation and present state of the Quarantine station, that it is situated on Athol island, which was purchased by Sir Alexander Bannerman for the purpose, on account of the salubrity and general eligibility of the island. It is 3½ miles east north-east from Nassau, the formation of the island is calcareous rock, with scarcely a foot depth of earth upon it in any part; but when I was first sent by Sir Alexander Bannerman to examine its capabilities, &c., there were some hundreds of fruit trees on the island, advantage having been taken of numerous cave holes, in which trees flourish

exceeding well; much of this cultivation has been since then destroyed by the encroachment of the bush, which has been allowed to remain uncleared till it has killed a great number of the trees. The ground slopes north, south, and east from the highest land which is about 30 feet above high water, and on this ridge or platform the buildings of the Quarantine station are erected—a more healthy spot could not be found in the vicinity of New Providence. There is a small pond near the east end of the island covered with mangroves, but at too great a distance from the station to be injurious, and indeed, as the water is salt, there is not much fear of malaria from it.

Wells might be dug in many places; I might state that in the Bahamas there are no springs of water. The wells are supplied by filtration of sea water through the rock, which is in this island of such fine quality that the water is very sweet; they are generally dug a few inches below low-water mark, but this depends very much on the degree of porosity of the rock; the station does not, however, depend on its wells. A good supply of water being so important, we have six tanks cut in the rock, four at the largest hospital, capable of containing 7,776 imperial gallons.

The station consists of three hospitals, a dwelling-house for the quarantine officer, two kitchens, with tanks, wells, landing-places, &c., and a burial ground. The western hospital is octagonal in shape, 20 feet in diameter, undivided, containing 4,788 cubic feet of space, and intended to accommodate six persons. It is raised three feet from the surface of the rock, with a large semicircular grated ventilator in each of the eight sides of the foundation; in the centre of the roof is a cupola 5 feet in diameter and 4 feet in height, jalousied in such a manner that the driving rains of the climate cannot penetrate, though free egress is preserved for the heated air of the hospital to escape. There are four large brass ventilators in the floor that can be opened or shut at pleasure; and as the large valve in the cupola can also be opened or shut, it is in the power of the attendant to regulate the ventilation, and there being four windows 3 by 5 feet, opening the whole length from the centre, and double doors on the north and south sides, a current of air can be directed over any portion of the hospital, an incalculable advantage in fever, for the comfort of the patient and purifying of the hospital. The amount of air for each person, allowing six patients, is 798 cubic feet, but on account of the complete ventilation attainable in this building a greater number might be accommodated without injury. The heated air is continually escaping through the ventilator of the roof, and the fresh external air flowing in to supply its place by the ventilators in the floor, doors, and windows. There are large partition screens for dividing off one or more beds when desirable; we adopted this plan in preference to partition walls on account of the freer circulation of air.

This building is surrounded by an open verandah 8 feet wide. To the east of this is a larger hospital similarly built, with the exception of the verandah, which was struck out of the plan on the score, I believe, of economy; nothing can really take the place of a verandah in a tropical climate for comfort, convenience, or health, but the best substitute is the box jalousie, one of which is placed outside each window of the building, projecting one foot. This building is 30 feet in diameter, with a shingled roof, divided by a partition the height of the wall into two rooms, intended to accommodate 10 persons, space 9,975 cubic feet; but for the reasons stated with regard to the smaller hospital capable of being used for a greater number. Both of these buildings have tanks attached, filled by means of the zinc guttering that surrounds the roofs; these tanks are cut in the rock, and each capable of containing 1,296 imperial gallons. They are covered to protect them from the weather and to preserve the contents free from impurities. On the south side of these hospitals there is a double kitchen, octagonal, 20 feet in diameter, fitted with the usual boilers, &c.; and near the sea a double stone privy, arranged to admit the tide, which keeps it free from all effluvia.

To the east of this larger hospital, is the dwelling for the quarantine officer, an octagonal building similar to the 30 feet hospital, space 10,725 feet, divided by partitions of wood 9 feet high, into four rooms, each with an outer door, a sitting and bed room for the officer, a surgeon's room, and a store room. To the north of the dwelling-house is the hospital, more recently erected, also built of surface stone, 80 by 20 feet; this surface rubble stone, with lime burnt from the same, forms a very dry wall, much drier than dressed squared stone; it is very fine grained and much harder than the quarried stone, with the advantage of not being liable to injury from atmospheric influence.

This hospital has a verandah 8 feet 6 inches wide on the east and west sides, enclosed by moveable jalousies gabled on the north and south sides. There is a lower story 8 feet high, the walls are pierced for windows and doors, and it might be adapted to a surgery, bath rooms, offices, store rooms, &c., the position securing it from damp, as the ground slopes from it on the east, west, and north sides; the upper story, which is undivided and intended for 26 patients, contains 24,000 cubic feet of space, with 24 windows and 4 doors; the roof is of galvanized iron corrugated, with ventilators in the ridge 4 feet apart. It may prove to be necessary to construct a ceiling, with ventilators in it, about 2 feet from the roof, as a protection against the great heat of this sort of roof, which, though admirable for cold climates, I cannot but regard as ill-adapted to the tropics, though by judicious ventilation by means of ceilings constructed with ventilators in them, these and roofs of other metal or slate may be rendered unobjectionable. For this hospital there is a kitchen furnished with the usual fittings, &c., there is also a double privy having a double covered way to it. Between the two octagonal hospitals there is a flag-staff 65 feet in height; 40 feet from the surface of the ground is a yard-arm, to which is to be suspended a large lantern with a Fresnel lens, to illuminate an arc of 180 degrees from the north-east to the south-west. This work will be completed in the course of two months. This light is expected to prove very advantageous to vessels, by enabling them to come up and anchor near the station, and thus avoid the risk of running on the shoals, which are numerous in that part, and from thence to continue their way to Nassau Harbour.

The burial ground lies to the north-east of the buildings on a portion of land lying between two bays, the only sandy ground on the island. A landing at one or other of these bays can be effected at any time.

BAHAMAS.

There is a wharf and landing for boats drawing three feet of water on the south side of the island immediately opposite to the buildings.

I have the honour to enclose a plan showing the disposition of the several buildings, &c. on the station.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. C. HARVEY.

His Honour Charles Rogers Nesbitt, Esq.,
Administrator of Government,
&c. &c. &c.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

No. 4.

No. 4.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor EYRE to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 50.)

SIR, King's House, Jamaica, July 4, 1864.

Turks Islands. No. 53 of June 18, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from the President of Turks Islands, forwarding and reporting upon the Blue Book of that Colony for the year 1863.

2. On the whole Mr. Moir's report may be considered satisfactory, and as indicating a somewhat more promising prospect for the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. EYRE.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 4.

(No. 53.)

SIR, Government House, Grand Turk, June 18, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1863.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

2. The taxes and fees were the same as in the two preceding years, and the only alteration in the duties was the increase in the export duty on salt, which for the last six months of 1863 was raised from a farthing to one halfpenny per bushel.

Revenue.

3. The general revenue for the year amounted to 8,441*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*, while grants in aid from the Crown revenue and the General Post Office, &c., gave a net revenue of 11,272*l.* 17*s.* 8¼*d.*, and adding the balance from the previous year a total of 13,162*l.* 0*s.* 6¼*d.*

The ordinary expenditure was 7,536*l.* 4*s.* 9¾*d.*, and on account of miscellaneous civil services 2,552*l.* 17*s.* 4¾*d.*, showing a total expenditure of 10,089*l.* 2*s.* 2½*d.*, and leaving a balance of 3,072*l.* 18*s.* 3¾*d.* in the public treasury on the 31st December last.

Local Revenue.

4. The Crown revenue collected during the past year was 2,668*l.* 19*s.* 10¼*d.*, which, together with a balance from 1862 of 938*l.* 0*s.* 8¾*d.*, gives a total of 3,607*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* The disbursements for public works, roads, buildings, salaries, and miscellaneous amounted to 3,035*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*, leaving a balance of 571*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* in the Crown chest at the end of the year. For the first quarter of 1863 the old rents amounting to 384*l.* 12*s.* 3¾*d.* were collected for that period, and during the last nine months of the year an amount equal to 10 per cent. of the value of all salt exported was paid, the lessees having made application for grants in fee simple of the grounds formerly leased to them by the Crown upon the condition that 10 per cent. of the exports would be paid in perpetuity by them and their successors, which terms were acceded to by Her Majesty's Government.

Public Debt.

5. The sum assigned to the Turks and Caicos Islands as a proportion of the public debt, on the separation from the Bahamas, was 8,000*l.* In January 1852, to assist to pay off the balance then due by this Colony, the sum of 1,838*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* was borrowed, under the authority of Ordinance No. 1 of 1851, all of which has been paid off, with the exception of Debentures Nos. 9 and 10, for 500*l.* and 400*l.* respectively, bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum, and which now constitute the public debt of the Colony.

Expenditure by Great Britain.

6. There was no amount expended by Great Britain in aid of the military or civil services of the Colony, with the exception of the sum of 281*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, which was paid in aid of the postal service for 1863.

PLAN
Shewing disposition of
QUARANTINE BUILDINGS
ATHOL ISLAND.

14 ft.

16 ft.

16 ft.

B A Y

Well

Burial Ground

Well

B A Y

Privy

Hospital

30 ft above high water

Privy

Flag Staff

Keeper's House

23 ft above high water

Hospital

Hospital

Kitchen

Privy

WHARF

10 ft.

11 ft.

12 ft.

Survey.r Gen.ls Office,
July 16th 1864.

Thos. C. Harvey, C.E.
Surv.r Gen.l

Edwd Weller, litho.

Militia.

7. This arm of the service is not organized. There is, however, a volunteer artillery force, consisting of 36 men, who very efficiently discharge the duties devolving upon them, and one company of volunteer rifle numbering 43 rank and file with three commissioned and four non-commissioned officers. On previous occasions I have spoken in terms of praise of this company, but I regret to say that, since the departure of Captain Graham from the Colony, the *esprit de corps* appears to have forsaken it. My opinion is that one of the reasons for this failure may be attributed to the present captain of the company being much occupied in business transactions, and his consequent inability to give that constant attention to many details which greatly contribute to the success of such a movement. Another is that the wealthy class of the community do not themselves engage in nor give that support to the movement which they ought to do. But I have recently called public attention to this subject when opening the Legislative Council, and trust I may be able to speak in more encouraging terms in any future report.

Public Works.

8. The expenses incurred by the late Crown Commissioner's Department in carting water to the poorhouse and lighthouse were considerable, and the great inconvenience of having no immediately large supply of this indispensable element, especially in a warm climate, was so constantly felt that one of my earliest objects was to have these wants supplied, which has now been accomplished, and, as may be imagined, are a great source of comfort to every one concerned. The ends of the lightning conductors on the lighthouse are now also immersed in three small tanks, kept half to two-thirds full of water, as recommended by the inspector in the year 1861. The boys' schoolroom at Grand Turk has been fitted up, and the school removed to it from the courthouse, where it was formerly conducted. Those at Salt Cay also have been repaired and the classes resumed; the roads and public wells at Salt Cay very much improved, while a market-house and a protecting pier to the western shore of this island were commenced, and will in all probability be shortly completed.

Legislation.

9. Ten Ordinances were passed the Legislative Council during last year, nine of which have received Her Majesty's gracious allowance. There can be no doubt that some of these will prove of very great benefit to the Colony. The new tenure granted to the now salt-pond proprietors has set at rest what was formerly of much annoyance to the Government and of great pecuniary embarrassment to the lessees. Rents, which in some instances were very high and in others ridiculously low, are by the present system abolished, and the former lessees are secured a fee-simple title to their grounds, on the condition that they pay in perpetuity ten per cent. of the value of the salt exported by them from time to time, in addition to any export duty which may be imposed on the staple by the Legislature. The difficulty of procuring the annual rent on a fixed date, under the penalty of forfeiture of the lease, is thus removed, and a more equable and satisfactory charge substituted, whereby the salt raker is relieved of great anxiety, and the Government of the machinery for and difficulty of procuring cash payments in order to carry on the departments dependent on supplies from this source. The Land Ordinances will also be productive of good, inasmuch as they afford the means of securing proper titles to legitimate occupants of land, and prevent the previous reprehensible practice of squatting by unauthorized individuals and families, who had been in the habit of moving from place to place, burning off and planting spots of land till such ceased to be productive, and then selecting some other portion of Crown property to suit their nomadic purposes. I think that the amended Bank Ordinance also will now render a banking system workable in this Colony, but time alone can prove whether sufficient business will be transacted to enable the profits of the bank to pay in the first instance the salary of the cashier (200*l.* per annum) and then secure any surplus for the purposes of general revenue. The Public Library Ordinance has already been successful, and I look with pleasure to the institution thus organized as a means of information and mental improvement to all classes of the community. Other Ordinances of minor importance have been passed, and the amended Elective Franchise Ordinance is the only one still under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

Pensions.

10. The only pension paid is a sum of 150*l.* to Mr. Hamilton, the late Police Magistrate, which was granted to that officer in 1861, during his lifetime, after a public service on his part of thirty-nine years.

Foreign Consuls.

11. The only Consul resident here is the representative of the United States of America, which Government has always provided a Consulate in this Colony.

Population.

12. The last census was taken in the month of April 1861, when the population amounted to 4,372 souls. In Grand Turk 2,265, Salt Cay 761, and the Caicos 1,346, of whom 2,716 were under 25 years of age, 1,300 over that and under 55, and 356 above the latter age. Children of tender years were numbered at 1,071, and as the climate is healthy and epidemic diseases very rare, I conclude that the population will be found, when the next census may be taken, and should no abnormal check supervene, to have greatly increased. The number of marriages are returned for last year at 28, the births at 121, and the deaths at 107. These figures, however, I consider as only

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

approximate to the truth, but the Registration Act being now in force, I look for correct returns for the present year.

Ecclesiastical.

13. The number of places of worship belonging to the Established Church is two, St. Thomas's Church at Grand Trunk, capable of containing about 365 persons, the general average attendance being at least 125, to whom the Reverend Joseph Maxwell ministers in his capacity of rector; and St. John's Church at Salt Cay, seated for 180, and with an average attendance of 75, over whom the Rev. J. C. Astwood presides. The stipends of both of these clergymen are provided from colonial funds. There are also at Grand Turk one Wesleyan and one Baptist missionary, who have local preachers scattered over the other inhabited portions of the Colony, and who claim a much larger Sabbath attendance than the Church of England; the Wesleyans stating the average at 1,200, and the Baptists at 1,600. I can acknowledge these numbers to be correct only on the understanding that they include the children and infants who accompany their parents to public worship.

Education.

14. I was confined to bed, in consequence of a painful accident, when the yearly examination of the public schools took place, and requested Mr. Duncombe, the Judge of the Supreme Court, to fulfil my duties. He afterwards expressed himself satisfied with the result of the examination, and Mrs. Moir, who was present when the girls' and infants' classes were examined, spoke to me of them in terms of praise. It is gratifying to observe from the annexed report* and statistical table, prepared by the Inspector, that a greater degree of interest in the advantages secured by juvenile education appears manifest during last than on previous years; and from my occasional visits to the different schools I gather that the teachers are diligent and painstaking, and the bulk of the children attentive and progressing in rudimentary knowledge. I hope to have the annual examination for this year immediately on the return of Mr. Ockenden from America, where he has been obliged to proceed in the hope of restoring, by means of the sea voyage, his health, which, from a recent attack of sickness, has been somewhat impaired.

* Not printed.

Imports and Exports.

15. An analysis of the returns under these heads shows a falling off in the receipts for import duties, as compared with 1862, of 209*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, caused principally by a smaller importation of sugar and non-enumerated goods, candles, segars, corn, rice, soap, and wine; and of 73*l.* for light dues—a necessary consequence of fewer vessels arriving during the last than entered at the Custom House in the previous year, whilst the balance is turned in favour of the revenue by increased importations of coffee, fish, lumber, shingles, and spirits, and the increased export duty on salt during the last six months of 1863. The value of imports was 9,226*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.* more than that of 1862, and that of exports also increased for the corresponding period by 1,380*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* The receipts under these heads in 1863 were :—

	£	s.	d.
Imports - - - - - - - -	3,870	8	10
Exports - - - - - - - -	2,624	4	7
	£ 6,494	13	5

And in 1862—

	£	s.	d.
Imports - - - - - - - -	4,079	12	9
Exports - - - - - - - -	2,065	4	1
	£ 6,144	16	10

Exhibiting an increase of 349*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* for the year 1863.

Agriculture.

16. Livestock, now brought to market in small numbers, might be extensively raised in the Caicos Islands; but the small settlers and squatters in the middle and lower portion of that group prefer to depend on what cultivation can easily be pursued, on fishing, and on wrecking, rather than exercise their bodies and minds in this healthful and profitable labour, and I may say universally decline to engage their services to those proprietors of abandoned estates who would be so willing to employ them for the purpose. It were well for a capitalist to procure a competent overseer and practical farm servants to engage in this lucrative business, and so show the people there an example which would be for their good; for the proprietors of salt ponds are too much engrossed in their congenial occupation, and have embarked too much capital in their pans, to abandon them for this, to them, new enterprise. Cotton has been and might again be raised in large quantities. It formerly constituted a large item in the annual exports to Great Britain; and two or three gentlemen are now awaking to the profits derived from its production, at its present renewed value, and are cultivating on a somewhat extended area this plant, which I trust may once again secure the attention of and prove of benefit to proprietors and the Colony.

Squatting.

17. The remarks on this subject introduced by the Colonial Secretary into the printed return are so correct that I cannot do better than transcribe them. Mr. McIntosh is now, and his father was,

one of the largest proprietors of estates in the Caicos. Born and spending his boyhood there, educated subsequently at Harrow and Cambridge, and a member of the Inner Temple, he has frequently astonished me with his glowing descriptions of the fertility, productiveness, and beauty of those islands *as they were*, but which now offer a sad contrast in abandoned estates, half demolished buildings, overgrown roads, and the waving canefield degenerated into the little "*corn patch*" or the insignificant "*potatoe ground.*" He says, "Squatting had been permitted to prevail throughout "the Caicos Islands for many years previous to the separation of these islands from the Bahama "Government, much to the prejudice of the legitimate proprietors of the land. Of the whole "population of the agricultural district of the Caicos, consisting, as appears by the last census in "1861, of about 1,346 persons, not above 10 or 12 can show any title for the land they occupy. "The difficulty of obtaining labour on any terms, consequent upon the system of squatting upon "Crown lands, has been mainly the cause of the landed proprietors abandoning their plantations, "except for the purpose of raising livestock. Another evil arising from squatting is the constant "destruction of land from the method adopted by the squatters in clearing up by burning." "The "operation of the Land Ordinance, No. 3 of 1863, will have the desired effect of correcting the evils "above adverted to."

Gaols and Prisoners.

18. It is pleasing, however, to be able to record that the return under the head of Gaols show only one committal for felony, that the total number of persons committed during the year was not more than 62, and that of that number 41 were re-committals, one of them for once, four for twice, and no less than 36 for three times or more previously; proving that here, as elsewhere, a few idle and dissolute persons annually swell the totals of this tell-tale return. Having recently reported on the state of the gaol, and urged the erection of a new one, I have nothing now to add on that subject.

General Remarks.

19. Owing to various circumstances, and the necessity for my almost constant presence at the seat of Government, I have been unable to see more of the Colony than what I recorded in last year's Blue Book report; but I have requested the ministers of the Episcopalian churches and of the Wesleyan and Baptist denominations to furnish me with short reports on the moral and social condition of the people under their several charges, and I now subjoin extracts from the letters forwarded to me by these gentlemen.

Mr. Maxwell remarks:—"I am happy to state that, in my opinion, the social and moral condition "of the higher orders of the people is much improved from what it was two or three years ago, and "a much better feeling appears to prevail amongst them; although I regret to say that there are still "some of whom, from their position in society, we might have expected better examples, and that "drunkenness and immorality still prevail to a certain extent among the middle and lower classes of "society, and some of our young men appear to be falling into these habits; and I am informed, but "I cannot speak from my own knowledge, as these things are generally done in secret, that gambling "is carried on to a certain extent, which is the natural concomitant of these idle habits; and it is to "be feared that these evils are to be attributed in some measure to the easy access which the people "have to getting ale, wine, and spirits in small quantities from so many of the retail stores which are "now licensed to sell them."

Mr. Astwood:—"On the whole, a review of the morals of churchmen, while perhaps it does not "show much progress, yet I think we may congratulate ourselves that it does not show any going "back, and there is shown by some of our people a desire for more comfortable houses and sur- "roundings. This I look upon as a sure mark of progress in the social condition of the people."

Mr. Moon, Wesleyan Missionary:—"The tone of morals amongst our own people is, on the whole, "very satisfactory. The continual exercise of a righteous discipline prevents the toleration of any "glaring vice in those who are immediately identified with the church. Of the older and principal "members we may safely assert that their moral character is unassailable. Were it otherwise, they "would, in conformity with our 'rules,' be removed from the society. I am not aware that during "the past two years any member of the Wesleyan Society has been convicted of any criminal offence "whatever, and during the same period only two persons have been expelled for gross immorality." "The above applies solely to the members, and not to the non-professing attendants on our public "ministry. Amongst the latter, as forming a part of the general community, there are persons "addicted to the vices prevalent throughout these islands, and which I think have rather increased "than diminished during the past few years. The increase of a certain class of vices must no doubt "be attributed to the intercourse which our people had with the inhabitants of Santo Domingo prior "to the outbreak of the revolution; an intercourse which exercised an influence anything but "favourable to the morals of this community. Many of our labouring people left us for a time, "bearing with them a good reputation, but returned the victims either of intemperance or immo- "rality. This example has been most pernicious in its effects. Concubinage has increased, adul- "tery is far more prevalent than formerly, and some of the lower orders have imbibed lax views of "the sanctity of the marriage relation. Many of the young people, too, have contracted habits "which are evil in themselves, and productive of sad consequences to the moral and religious "interests of any community."

Mr. Rycroft, Baptist Missionary:—"Very likely there is no country in which is found greater "attention to the means of grace, or more subjection, practically, to the doctrines and precepts of the "Gospel of God. And this, no doubt, would be yet greater if less encouragement were given to "the allowance of liquor shops and Saturday night tents, both of which on Grand Cay, Salt Cay, and

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

" the Harbour, tend to demoralize the rising race. But we are thankful to find the principal portion " of every settlement at this day filling our houses of prayer, and employing their influence to " discourage all evil. Some two-and-twenty years ago we found these islands such as might be " expected from the existence of slavery. That system seems to have degraded both master and " slave. Under its existence there was little encouragement to the missionary, and as to every kind " of immorality, the door was wide open. Since the abolition of that foul system this Colony has " taken large steps in the path of improvement. When the high in station and advanced in intelli- " gence shall lend us practical aid, we may hope to see iniquity hide its head, and scenes around " become bright with blossoms of moral beauty."

These reports deal principally with the members of the several denominations existing in the Colony, but the stipendiary and police magistrates' returns lead me to the conclusion that although the moral and social condition of the people has improved, yet that drunkenness and immorality still exist to a great extent. In no place, however, where I have dwelt have I seen the general community more orderly, or the outward respect for the Sabbath better observed; and one feature I cannot help remarking is the almost total absence of open and barefaced vice.

20. Towards the latter part of the year upwards of 600 refugees from Saint Domingo sought in this island an asylum from fire and sword, and very many of these poor people having lost all their property and barely escaped with their lives, a natural sympathy was excited for their forlorn condition among our colonists, who have ever proved themselves ready to assist the afflicted in their time of need. A public subscription was raised and put at my disposal, and, with a supplementary grant from the Crown funds, I was able to send those willing to go to Cape Hayti and Saint Thomas, and to maintain others till they were in a condition to leave themselves or obtain employment and the means of support.

21. Mercantile and other transactions have improved much during the year 1863, and it is matter of congratulation to the Colony that there is the prospect, if not the actual accomplishment, of still greater progress. But as the several subjects to which I might refer with pleasure belong more to this than the incidents of the past year, any remarks with respect to them may very properly be left to a future report.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Governor Eyre, &c. &c.

(Signed) ALEX. W. MOIR, President.

TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor KEATE to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 84)

SIR, Trinidad, June 4, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of Trinidad for the year 1863, together with the usual annual report on the condition and prospects of the island. I beg leave also to enclose copies of various reports and returns, a list of which is subjoined, which illustrate the contents of the book, and several of which are referred to in the course of my report.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE.

List of Reports and Returns.

1. Return of Taxation.
2. Report of the Postmaster-General.
3. Statistical Return, Colonial Hospital, Port of Spain.
4. Statistical Return, Colonial Hospital, San Fernando.
5. Report of the Public Vaccinator.
6. Report on the Lunatic Asylum.
7. Return, Leper Asylum.
8. Returns, Agent-General of Immigrants.
9. Report of Superintendent of Prisons.
10. Report on Coolie Orphan Asylum.
11. Report of Inspector of Schools.
12. Report of Principal of Queen's Collegiate School.
13. Return, Income Tax.

Enclosure in No. 5. TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD.

REPORT on the Blue Book for 1863.

1. In my report for 1862 I represented the Colony as being in a state of checked expansion. The year 1863 showed but slight signs of the removal of the causes which placed it in that position. They are, therefore, again reflected, though in a somewhat less degree, on the Revenue Returns. The receipts from the principal sources of the public income, by which the condition of the Colony may best be tested, stood in the two years stood as follows:—

	1862.	1863.
Customs - - -	£74,684	£74,724
Rum Duties - -	35,455	38,381
Licences - - -	3,134	3,511
Income Tax - -	8,988	6,540

Under each head there is a small increase, except that of Income Tax, the falling off in which is the exponent of diminished profits in 1862, not 1863, this tax being assessed on the profits of the year preceding that in which it is collected. The Rum Duties show the largest increase; that in the Customs would no doubt have borne a nearer proportion to it, but for the continued disorganization of the trade with North America. The import of horses and mules from thence, formerly a large item, has almost ceased; and that of lumber has decreased during the last two years by upwards of two million feet. The enhanced profits of industry in 1863, indicated by the improvement, slight as it is, in the Customs and Excise, will swell the Income Tax returns for the present year.

2. The sums of all receipts brought to account as revenue were,—

	£
In 1862 - - - -	199,372
In 1863 - - - -	184,377

Showing a difference of 14,995*l.* This, however, is more than accounted for by the smaller amount of special revenue raised in the latter than in the former year for immigration purposes. These stood—

	£
In 1862 at - - -	41,651
In 1863 at - - -	22,247

Exhibiting a decrease of 19,404*l.*

3. In the ordinary expenditure of the two years little difference is observable; but as larger special funds were raised, so a larger outlay was made on immigration in 1862 than in 1863, 50,287*l.* namely, against 28,609*l.* The totals of all disbursements brought to account as expenditure in the two years were as follows:—

	£
In 1862 - - - -	196,058
In 1863 - - - -	188,981

Showing a decrease in the latter year of 7,077*l.* This is less by 14,601*l.* than the difference between the two amounts spent, as I have said, in the two years on immigration. Increased payments towards the redemption of the guaranteed loans of the Colony occasioned this reduction in the saving on the year's expenditure. Taking the revenue and expenditure of the two years together there still appears to be an excess of the latter over the former of 1,290*l.*, but among the various entries which swell the aggregates, occurs as an item of expenditure in 1862 an investment of 1,835*l.* made on account of the Colony by the Emigration Commissioners. This is sufficient to show that the excess is only nominal.

4. As the disturbing causes mentioned in former annual reports, so far as they were within the control of Government, have now been removed, and the finances of the island rest consequently on a sound footing, I venture to look upon the slight improvement of last year as an earnest of the recommencement of that upward tendency which characterized the revenue from year to year until it was affected by those causes. I am strengthened in this impression by observing that both the Customs and Excise Returns for the months which have elapsed of the present year exhibit an advance upon those of the same period of 1863. Two favourable crop seasons have succeeded to the disastrous operations of 1860 and 1861, while the value of produce is now considerably higher than

TRINIDAD.

in those years. A more hopeful spirit prevails in consequence, which is I believe of a healthier and less speculative kind than is apt to be produced by a rise in prices.

5. The exported produce of the island, consisting of sugar, molasses, rum, coffee, and cocoa, but given for convenience sake in its equivalent in hogsheads of sugar, amounted in the years 1860 and 1861 to 107,113 hogsheads. In 1862 it reached 60,300, and in 1863, 64,043, making together 124,343 hogsheads. Towards providing the labour by which it was raised, this produce bore in each of these years an export tax amounting on an average of the four years to 3*s.* 10*d.* per hogshead, that is to say, 3*s.* in 1860, 3*s.* 6*d.* in 1861, 7*s.* 3*d.* in 1862, and 1*s.* 7*d.* in 1863. The large duty imposed in 1862 was rendered necessary by the short crops of the two preceding years, which of course reduced the receipts under the tax, and left a deficiency in the Immigration Fund which had to be made good in the succeeding year. The annual proportion of immigration taxes to produce, which on an average of the years 1860, 1861, and 1862 stood at 15*s.* 7*d.* per hogshead of sugar, fell in 1863 to 6*s.* 7*d.* Among the returns enclosed is one of taxation, both general and local, for 1863, in the same form as that which accompanied my last Blue Book report, and giving similar information with regard to its bearings upon population and industry. Taking the average of the last three years the results stand as follows :—

	£
Taxation raised under the head of General Revenue for 1861 -	167,373
Do. do. do. 1862 -	177,585
Do. do. do. 1863 -	161,811
Taxation raised under the head of Local Revenues for 1861 -	35,229
Do. do. do. 1862 -	36,917
Do. do. do. 1863 -	38,661
Taxation from all sources for the three years 1861, 1862, and 1863 -	617,576
Annual average of do. do. do. -	205,858
Taxation for 1861, 1862, and 1863, exclusive of local taxes -	506,769
Annual average of do. do. do. -	168,923
Taxation for 1861, 1862, and 1863, less the taxation levied for immigration purposes -	496,406
Annual average of 1861, 1862, and 1863, less the taxation levied for immigration purposes -	165,468
Taxation for 1861, 1862, and 1863, exclusive of local taxes and taxes levied for immigration purposes -	385,599
Annual average of 1861, 1862, and 1863, exclusive of local taxes and taxes levied for immigration purposes -	128,533

Population - - 84,438.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Annual average rate of taxation per head from all sources - -	2	8	9
Do. do. exclusive of local taxes - -	2	0	0
Do. do. exclusive of taxes raised for immigration purposes - -	1	19	2
Do. do. exclusive of local taxes and taxes levied for immigration purposes -	1	10	5

Produce of the year 1861 equivalent to 54,904 hogshead of sugar.
Do. 1862 do. 60,300 do.
Do. 1863 do. 65,270 do.
Produce for 1861, 1862, and 1863, equivalent to 180,474 hogsheads of sugar.
Annual average produce for the years 1861, 1862, and 1863, equivalent to 60,158 hogsheads of sugar.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Average annual proportion which taxation bears to sugar and other produce reduced to its equivalent in sugar per hogshead for the years 1861, 1862, and 1863 - - - - -	3	8	5
Average annual proportion which taxation bears to sugar and other produce reduced to its equivalent in sugar per hogshead for years 1861, 1862, and 1863, exclusive of local taxes - -	2	16	2
Average annual proportion which taxation bears to sugar and other produce reduced to its equivalent in sugar per hogshead for the years 1861, 1862, and 1863, exclusive of taxes raised for immigration purposes - - - - -	2	15	0

	£	s.	d.
Average annual proportion which taxation bears to sugar and other produce reduced to its equivalent in sugar per hogshead for the years 1861, 1862, and 1863, exclusive of local taxes and taxation levied for immigration purposes - - -	2	2	9
Average annual proportion of immigration taxes to produce per hogshead - - - - - - -	0	9	6

6. Of the expenditure of the year no less a sum than 23,454*l.* was applied to the diminution of the public debt. The rapidity with which the loans guaranteed by the Imperial Parliament are now being redeemed throws a heavy annual charge upon the resources of the island, but there is ample recompense in the comparatively near prospect which it holds out of their complete extinction.

7. The outlay of the Colony on account of its military defence also bore in 1863 a more appreciable proportion to its total disbursements than in previous years. It rose from 201*l.* in 1862, which was about the average of former years, to 1,715*l.*, while the expenditure incurred under the same head by Great Britain fell from 17,543*l.* to 14,524*l.* The increase in the colonial contribution was due to the carrying out of improvements to the St. James's Barracks at the cost of the local treasury. An augmented supply of water from the Maraval Waterworks has been furnished, and a complete system of underground pipe drainage from all parts of the buildings to the sea has been laid down. Other minor sanitary measures are in progress, and, so far as human means can effect it, the health of the troops stationed in the island is now I believe fully ensured.

8. The sanitary requirements of Port of Spain itself have not been neglected, while those of the barracks in its neighbourhood have been attended to. The energies of the Public Works Department have been applied during the year to the execution of the great work of underground sewerage, which is eventually to be extended to every quarter of the town. The scheme, so far as it has been carried, has proved a complete success, and the prognostications of failure hazarded by the opponents of it have been signally refuted. The outlay for this service in 1863 amounted to 4,033*l.* This however is repayable to the Treasury partly by immediate reimbursements for work done by the Government for and on account of the occupiers of houses, and partly by a sewerage rate which will extend over a series of years. Of the total sum of 15,000*l.* raised by debentures for the execution of the work, 4,500*l.* had already been redeemed at the close of the year.

9. The drainage of the town is an absolutely necessary preliminary to the adoption of every other measure, and there are many in contemplation, for the improvement of its sanitary condition. At one period of the year under review there was cause to fear that in one essential point affecting the health, not only of the town but of the whole community, a retrograde step had been taken. The municipality of Port of Spain suddenly withdrew its support from the Vaccine Institution of the island. Fortunately the Public Vaccinator did not on that account relax his efforts to carry out its objects, as will be seen by a perusal of his report, and, as good arises out evil, I am happy to be able to add that since the commencement of the present year an Ordinance has been passed by the Legislature which extends the usefulness of the Institution and places its support and its operations upon a more stable footing.

10. Another work of great importance to the town, and which has been under construction for several years, was carried vigorously forward in 1863. The Commissioners for the Improvement of the Wharves of Port of Spain expended, as appears by the returns under the head of Local Revenues, 6,516*l.* on this work out of an accruing revenue arising out of special wharf duties, levied for the purpose, of 6,720*l.* The whole expenditure from the commencement of the works in 1858, out of 40,000*l.* appropriated by Ordinance to the service, had reached on the 5th March of the present year 35,667*l.*, leaving 4,333*l.* still available, but which is far from sufficient to complete the undertaking if it is to be carried out as originally intended.

11. Additions, improvments, and repairs to existing buildings, and to roads, streets, and bridges, so far as they come under the charge of the general Government, cost the Colony about 7,344*l.*, which is less by 2,210*l.* than was expended under the same heads in 1862. The communication by road with the more distant parts of the island, with which the general Government is most concerned as being required for purposes of administration rather than for those of agriculture and trade, is undergoing gradual but sure, and I hope permanent, amelioration, and I am glad to have at length been enabled to commence a work which I have had in view almost ever since I assumed the government of the island, the opening, that is, of a road across the Caroni Savannah to serve as a connecting link between the separate road systems of the northern and of the southern divisions of the island.

TRINIDAD.

12. Intercourse between Port of Spain and San Fernando, the starting points of these two road systems, has hitherto been kept up almost entirely by water, and especially by the gulf steamers which carry the mails under contract with the Colonial Government. Since this service came into the hands of the present contractors it has been extremely well performed, as will appear by a perusal of the annual report of the Postmaster-General of the island, which is among the returns annexed. It is not the less desirable that a land communication should be established, and so strongly is this felt that liberal contributions towards the expense of the work have been made by planters and others interested in the immediate localities which the line of road will bring together. It will take another dry season to finish the road itself, but the work will not be complete until the Caroni River is bridged over at the point where the road will touch upon it and where it is now crossed by a ferry. This may be effected at no great expense, as the Government has in store one hundred feet of iron bridging remaining over and above what was employed on the three bridges erected a few years back on the eastern road. These materials could not be put to a better use.

13. In my last Blue Book Report I gave a list of all the public buildings and institutions with which the Colony has been endowed since I first became acquainted with it, and also of those which still remain to be supplied. I need not therefore comment upon them on this occasion further than to state that one of the latter is already in course of being provided, namely the courthouse and gaol at San Fernando. The amount which the Colony can afford to spend in each year on public works fluctuates according as the general revenue is called upon to contribute a greater or lesser sum towards the expense of introducing immigrants from the East, and within certain limits the standard of this contribution is fixed by the number of applications sent in for indentured labourers.

14. It has been argued by some persons, by one at all events, who in the course of last year addressed a printed letter on the subject to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, that the expenditure on Coolie immigration ought entirely to cease, and that the Colony should rely for its accessions of labour on the attractions it might offer to voluntary immigration. These attractions were to result from certain vaguely suggested changes in its financial and general legislation ; but the letter was entirely silent as to the quarter on which such attractions were to operate. Whether it is from this latter circumstance, or from other causes, the letter, which was published in a local newspaper, does not seem to have produced its intended effect on the practical minds of the planting body of the island ; for after two years of considerably restricted immigration at the public cost, the applications for the ensuing season have doubled in number, and an agreement has been entered into by which, in the course of the next three years, a large body of Chinese will be added to the labouring population, over and above the usual annual supply of East Indian Coolies, and of course at an enhanced outlay. For myself, my seven years' experience of the island has not led me to alter my opinion that the expenditure of the Colony on immigration is of a highly remunerative nature, not only to the actual employer of immigrants, but to every interest in the island ; but I think, at the same time, that there is room for improvement in the mode in which it is met, both as regards the employer and the general taxpayer, and especially that the quota which the general revenue is called upon, and very properly called upon, to contribute to it, ought to be fixed in amount, instead of rising and sinking with the demands of employers.

15. One of the incidental results of immigration from the East has been to enlarge very considerably the scale on which the public hospitals are conducted. The statistical returns of the resident surgeons of the hospitals of Port of Spain and of San Fernando show that of the total number of patients admitted during the year, 457 in the former and 313 in the latter were Indian or other immigrants. The expense has increased proportionally, so that the charge upon the revenue for these two establishments, which in 1853, including a separate hospital for Coolies then existing in Port of Spain, amounted to 4,639*l.*, in the year under review reached 8,293*l.* It has been stated that this charge would be diminished, while greater benefit would be conferred on the patients, if they were habitually sent in to hospital at an earlier stage of their maladies than is ordinarily the case at present ; and the resident surgeons are inclined to attach some sort of blame in the matter either on the managers or on the medical attendants of estates. I believe, however, the truth to be that though casual cases of negligence may occur, which is unavoidable, the evil is to be traced to the habits of the Coolie himself. These, on the one hand, are productive of that low state of vitality which conduces to disease and protracts recovery from it ; while, on the other, they lead him to conceal his ailments for fear of losing his means of hoarding. As the employer has now to pay, during five consecutive years, the indenture fee on every Coolie that is allotted to him, whether he lives or

dies, it is certainly not his interest, and self-interest will rule in this as in other matters, to neglect the health of his labourers.

16. Nor has immigration contributed less to swell the average number of prisoners in confinement at the Royal Gaol and in the licensed prisons. It appears from the annual report of the Superintendent of Prisons on the Royal Gaol, the district prisons, and the convict depôt at Irois, that upwards of one-half of the commitments in 1863 were of Indians or Chinese. Of these, however, the greater portion were for breaches of contract. That crime is rife among them also is evidenced by the commitments for murder, of which there were six during the year, five of the culprits being Coolies. The motives to these crimes seem to be precisely those which would actuate them in their own country, and to be in no way attributable to any peculiarity in their position here. This is, in fact, a part of the price which the Colony has to pay for adding a heathen element to its population. The surest prospect of amelioration lies in the gradual assimilation of this element with the bulk of the people, and its consequent subjection to the influences of a higher and more Christian civilization.

17. It is with the young that efforts in this direction can best be made. Schools for Coolie children, under Christian teachers, have been opened by the clergy and others in Port of Spain, and on several estates throughout the island, and the Coolie Orphan Asylum at Tacarigua, of which I have so often had to speak in terms of praise, maintains its place at the head of such establishments. It is a gratifying feature in the Report for last year, a copy of which is among the enclosures to this Report, that the committee of management are encouraged to hope, from the intelligence shown by several of the children, its inmates, that in time to come some of them may be made useful as teachers among their heathen countrymen. It is a subject of regret, however, that Coolie children do not yet, as a rule, attend the Ward schools provided at the public cost for the children of parents of all classes and all religious denominations.

18. I transmit herewith, as usual, copies of the annual reports of the Inspector of Schools, and of the Principal of the Queen's Collegiate School in Port of Spain. The former is a record of the working of a long established system of primary education, which, so far as it comes under Government control and supervision, appears to be going on satisfactorily. It falls off where that control and supervision cease. The latter report is a still more interesting document than the one I forwarded with the Blue Book for 1862. The examinations for exhibitions, held for the first time in that year, elicited from the examiners specially appointed for the occasion, high praise of the attainments exhibited by the pupils, and of the soundness and ability of the teaching afforded them; and they expressed an opinion that "the pupils' work would contrast "most favourably with that of any school in England." This opinion, as will be seen by the report for 1863, was severely tested in that year; the school having been admitted to the examinations held by the University of Cambridge for students not members of the University. The candidates for the exhibitions thus came into competition not only with their own schoolfellows, but with boys from all parts of England. The two exhibitionists obtained places in the second class, which, as they are debarred by the constitution of the school from taking in one set of subjects, those included under the head of religious knowledge, is the highest they could attain to. The first of them was bracketed second in Greek of all the boys examined, and the two together fourth in French. The number of pupils, which was 56 in December 1862, had fallen to 52 in the same month of 1864. This is the result of the re-establishment, as a private school, of the Roman Catholic College in Port of Spain, which now boards as well as educates; and in this respect, as in other more important ones, is preferred by some parents to the Queen's Collegiate School. I believe, as far as I have been able to learn, that the instruction given in it is good; but I have been informed by the parents of some of its pupils that it is objectionable in one particular, namely, in not being sufficiently English, and consequently not of a kind to qualify the pupils for future employment in the island. I have no doubt that this very radical defect will be remedied before long, under the judicious guidance of the Prelate who now holds the chief Ecclesiastical authority on the Roman Catholic establishment of the island. Upon the whole I am of opinion that the Colony is enjoying at present great educational advantages, and that it is disposed to profit by them; and I cannot but express my fervent hope that one of the results of this will be to impart, in future years, a higher and a kindlier tone to the life of the community in all its moral and social relations than, I regret to say, has recently characterised it.

19. Towards this end, I fully believe that the principal acts of legislation of the past year, the ordinances to confirm certain marriages, and to amend the law with regard to the solemnization and registration of marriages, will do much to contribute. Grave

TRINIDAD.

doubts were entertained before these laws passed, of the validity of certain marriages contracted and which might hereafter be contracted under the old laws; and very serious evils would have resulted to families and individuals, if any such marriages, hitherto considered good, were to be declared void by the courts. This danger, so far as local legislation could affect it, has now been removed as regards the past, and sufficiently guarded against for the future; and if security for the peace of families is an element of social harmony, and a proper object of solicitude for governments and legislatures, the time will come when the motives which led to the passing of these measures will be acknowledged and appreciated.

20. When I drew up my report for 1862 I was under the impression that it was the last I should be called upon to make upon the condition and prospects of Trinidad. I entered therefore into many particulars for the purpose of showing the progress, both material and social, which the Colony had made since the day on which I had the honour of assuming the adminstration of the Government. Being much pressed for time now, I beg leave, Sir, to refer you to that document for those particulars instead of repeating or recapitulating them here. I shall take leave of the Colony with a deep sense of many shortcomings on my own part, and of sincere gratitude to those who have aided me in my endeavours to discharge the duties of my office with efficiency. And I venture, in conclusion, to express a hope that those endeavours will be found to have resulted in some small amount of good to a community with whose welfare and happiness I have identified myself for so many years, and in which I shall never cease to take the liveliest interest.

ROBERT W. KEATE.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 5.

REPORT on the LUNATIC ASYLUM for the Year 1863.

Port of Spain, January 25, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the following statement as regards the progress of the lunatic asylum during the past year and its present position.

The additional wing, commenced in 1862, and having accommodation for 26 patients, and a fine airy store room, is all but completed. It is with much satisfaction we contemplate the speedy return of our 11 patients from the Royal Gaol, where they have been located hitherto for want of room at the asylum.

A spacious and commodious bathing and washhouse has also been erected. It contains three large baths, two shower-baths, two washing-troughs, and a clothes-room. We have much felt the want of this building, placed, as it is, on a lower site, commanding a plentiful supply of water; our former bathing department being of little use from the inconstant and insufficient supply it afforded.

These buildings, together with some further alterations and improvements, to be carried out if possible, as I believe to be his Excellency's wish, during the present year, will add very considerably to our comforts and accommodation; and will, besides the full play and benefit to be derived from our baths and washing-house, give lodging for 76 patients in separate rooms, besides eight or ten who can be accommodated in the convalescent ward, one of the contemplated improvements.

Amongst the proposed alterations I earnestly hope that it may be in his Excellency's power, as I believe that it has already met his approbation, to improve the dwelling-house of the resident superintendent; its present condition is certainly incommodious, and, in a sanitary point of view, unsuited for the large family located there. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Pashley for the ready manner in which he carries out all my instructions, and for many valuable suggestions for the benefit of the asylum.

I must confess that I feel exceedingly obliged to his Excellency for these additions and improvements, rendering, as they do, the duties of those responsible for the effectual working of the establishment so much more pleasant to themselves, and, as I can have no doubt, in the end so much more satisfactory in their results. As not inappropriate here, I ask permission to transfer a few remarks of the well-known and experienced Dr. Connolly, taken from a letter addressed by him to the editor of the *Lancet:* "You well know," he says, "quite as well indeed as I do, that the treatment of the insane "comprehends much more than physic, that mere drugs are of small avail, and that the days of "head-shaving, antimony, and low diet have passed away. The insane require a cheerful residence, a "house adapted at once for their protection and possessing everything which has a tendency to promote "their recovery or amendment, to improve their bodily health, to give repose to the nervous system, "to cheer and revive the affections, and to restore the oppressed or bewildered intellect to healthy life." I may add, that although it is, perhaps, in the nature of public institutions to be always wanting something—indeed the steady march of improvement suggests the necessity—yet it does not occur to me at present that we can possibly have to call upon Government—all the proposed arrangements herein alluded to being carried out—for any further outlay of consequence, after the liberal manner in which our wants have been appreciated and met.

TRINIDAD.

I shall now proceed to present a statistical view of our position.

On 31st December 1862 the number of patients in asylum was -	- 42	
In gaol - - - - - - - - -	- 11	
Total -		53
Of those, 27 were men and 26 women.		
Of new cases admitted in 1863: these were, men 10, women 14. Total -		24
Whole number of patients under care and treatment during the year 1863		77
Highest number in asylum and gaol at any one period during the year -		59
Discharged during the year: recovered, men 8, women 4. Total -		12
Relieved and taken away by friends: men 4, women 3. Total -		7
Whole number discharged - - - - - - -		19
Deaths: men 3, women 1. Total -		4
Leaving on the 31st of December 1863,—		
Patients in asylum - - - - - - -	- 43	
„ in gaol - - - - - - -	- 11	
Total -		54

The deaths proceeded—one, in a very old man, from diseased bladder, one from structural disease of the brain, one from epilepsy, and one from cachexia of the severest form on the patient when admitted.

The average of discharges on admissions is—

Recovered, 50 per cent.; relieved sufficiently to be restored to friends, $3\frac{2}{5}$, or above 29 per cent. Total discharged on admissions, above 79 per cent.

Average of deaths on admissions $\frac{1}{6}$ or about 16 per cent.; but, as deaths occur principally amongst old cases, it may be as well to give their average on the whole number of patients, which I find to be a little above 5 per cent.

As the asylum has now been in operation for five years and three months, I may advantageously take this opportunity to give some averages—say for the last five years—to show at what rate insanity appears to have increased in the Colony, that is, insanity as showing itself in criminal acts, for it must not be forgotton that all these calculations have reference only to criminal lunatics, to whom alone the asylum is open under a magistrate's warrant.

The whole number of new cases admitted during that time has been 118, or $23\frac{3}{5}$ per annum. It would be wrong to take this as the actual increase of insanity in the Colony within this short period, because, with few exceptions, I have been able to ascertain so much of the history of cases as to know that by far the greater number of these were old chronic cases, either of recurrent, periodical, or continuous insanity. The veritable recent cases amongst that number of admissions I find to be 28. As concerns the asylum, therefore, the actual increase of patients during those five years has been 17, that is the difference between 37 on the 1st of January 1859 and 54 on the 1st of January 1864, equal to $3\frac{2}{5}$ steady increase per annum; and the average of recent cases for the same period has been $5\frac{3}{5}$ per annum.

Taking the population, then, of the island at 84,500, we have at present in the asylum one criminal lunatic to about 1,565 inhabitants; having reference to the *whole* number treated during the year, 1 in about 1,100 inhabitants; and as regards recent cases, 1 to about 15,000. Appended will be found an interesting table, made out with the greatest care by the resident Superintendent, assisted by our Chaplain, giving further statistical views, which will, I doubt not, be found very complete.

As I have so recently addressed his Excellency on the subject of increased requirements to suit the additional accommodation, I take this opportunity to explain, with reference to my letter of the 6th instant, that the supply of additional help need only be gradual, in proportion to the increase of patients, as indeed his Excellency had already himself remarked; only I could wish that the two warders for night duty, and the two additional matrons—one to act as washer as well as assistant—might be given to us at once, as I am particularly anxious that the system of night watching should be carried out effectually, as it adds so materially to the comfort, security, and welfare of our patients; as also that the washing department should be properly developed, not only for the advantage to the asylum generally, but because many of our female patients are fond of this particular branch of industry. It is to be observed, likewise, that our present supply of warders is, upon the whole, under the mark, inasmuch as three of them are so much otherwise engaged, viz., as cook, baker, and messenger.

I have, &c.

The Hon. J. Scott Bushe, Colonial Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) THO. MURRAY, M.D., Med. Super., Lunatic Asylum.

APPENDIX.

TOTAL NUMBER of PATIENTS admitted at LUNATIC ASYLUM during the year 1863, with the Percentage of CURED, RELIEVED, and DEATHS among those new patients.

Total number of *male* cases received in 1863 - - - - -	- 10
Total number of *female* cases received in 1863 - - - - -	- 14
Grand total	- 24

TRINIDAD.

Patients admitted in 1863.		Per-centage in Fractions.	Per-centage in Decimals.
CURES.			
Male Patients admitted in 1863—Cured	4	40	40 · 00
Female Patients admitted 1863—Cured	4	$28\frac{4}{7}$	28 · 57
Total number of Male and Female Patients admitted in 1863 and cured	8	$33\frac{1}{3}$	33 · 33
RELIEVED.			
Male Patients admitted in 1863—Relieved	3	30	30 · 00
Female Patients admitted 1863—Relieved	2	$14\frac{2}{7}$	14 · 28
Total of Male and Female Patients admitted in 1863 and relieved	5	$20\frac{5}{6}$	20 · 83
DEATHS.			
Male Patients admitted in 1863—Died	1	10	10 · 00
Female Patients admitted in 1863—Died	0	0	0 · 00
Total of Patients admitted in 1863 and died	1	$4\frac{1}{6}$	4 · 16
CURED AND RELIEVED TOGETHER.			
Male Patients of 1863—Cured and relieved	7	70	70 · 00
Female Patients of 1863—Cured and relieved	6	$42\frac{6}{7}$	42 · 85
Total of Patients admitted in 1863 and either cured or relieved	13	$54\frac{1}{6}$	54 · 13

TOTAL NUMBER of CASES under TREATMENT during the Year 1863, including New and Old Cases.

Total of Male Patients under treatment	37
Total of Female Patients under treatment	40
Grand total	77

Total Number of Cases under Treatment in 1863.		Per-centage in Fractions.	Per-centage in Decimals.
CURES.			
Of Male Patients under treatment—Cured	8	$21\frac{2}{3}\frac{3}{7}$	21 · 62
Of Female Patients under treatment—Cured	4	10	10 · 00
Total of those under treament—Cured	12	$15\frac{4}{7}\frac{5}{7}$	15 · 58
RELIEVED.			
Of Males under treatment—Relieved	4	$10\frac{3}{3}\frac{0}{7}$	10 · 81
Of Females under treatment—Relieved	3	$7\frac{1}{2}$	7 · 50
Of total under treatment—Relieved	7	$9\frac{1}{11}$	9 · 09
DIED.			
Of Males under treatment—Died	3	$8\frac{4}{3}\frac{4}{7}$	8 · 10
Of Females under treatment—Died	1	$2\frac{1}{2}$	2 · 50
Of total under treatment—Died	4	$5\frac{1}{7}\frac{5}{9}$	5 · 20
CURED AND RELIEVED TOGETHER.			
Of Males under treatment—Cured or relieved	12	$32\frac{1}{3}\frac{6}{7}$	32 · 43
Of Females under treatment—Cured or relieved	7	$17\frac{1}{2}$	17 · 50
Of total under treatment—Cured or relieved	19	$24\frac{5}{7}\frac{2}{7}$	24 · 67

REPORT on the VACCINE INSTITUTION for the year 1863.

SIR, Port of Spain, January 27, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, my annual return of vaccination for the year 1863.

Number of persons successfully vaccinated - - -	306
„ „ unsuccessfully „ - - -	7
Results not known - - - - - -	7
Total number of persons vaccinated - -	319

Of these 15 were from the country districts, and were re-vaccinations.

I am afforded an excellent opportunity, of which, of course, I readily avail myself, of carrying out the practice of re-vaccination when requisite, by inspecting the pupils previous to signing their certificates of health for the normal schools. I regard this as a very essential part, and one more and more recognized as such from day to day in the practice of vaccination.

His Excellency is already aware that since the 1st July last year the Borough Council unwillingly discontinued, by reason of financial difficulties, their share of support to an institution which had been upheld by them and their predecessors in office for the last forty-five years, acknowledging at the same time the "importance and necessity of the office," whilst addressing myself personally, as Public Vaccinator, in complimentary terms.

I have deemed it right, however, to continue the usual work in this department unabated throughout the year, and am now carrying on the duties as heretofore, hoping that it may still suit his Excellency's views, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, to remodel the institution in the manner suggested by himself in a late message to the Legislative Council, so as to place it on a different, that is to say a wider and more generally useful footing, in order that it may comprehend and be better adapted to the wants of the whole community; for although some children from the country are annually vaccinated at the institution in town, and many more no doubt from these again on their return home, as well as from frequent supplies of lymph which I have the pleasure of transmitting to the country districts, as quite recently, for instance, to the Warden of Moruga, who shows a special interest in extending the benefits of vaccination; yet it cannot be denied that vaccination is, upon the whole, rather confined to town, except during the existence of small-pox epidemics, when, owing to panic, the work that falls upon the Public Vaccinator is perfectly exhausting, and not wholly satisfactory, I fear, in the results from carelessness and rough usage on the part of those vaccinated, when not very young children.

I am glad to say that by the speedy measures adopted in the case of the "Lucy W. Alexander," lately arrived from Baltimore, reporting a fatal case of small-pox on board during the voyage, no infection has reached the shore.

The lymph in circulation is genuine, and therefore active and satisfactory in its results, and has the approval of several of my medical confrères, who have lately availed themselves of the opportunities afforded them to inspect cases with a view to their own private practice in this department.

I have, &c.

The Hon. J. Scott Bushe, Colonial Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) THOS. MURRAY, M.D., Public Vaccinator.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 146.) Government House, Demerara,

SIR, September 6, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the British Guiana Blue Book for the year 1863, and to make the following Report thereon.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue for 1863 was 266,170*l.* 1*s.* 9½*d.*, against 282,834*l.* 1*s.* 5½*d.* in 1862. The decrease was chiefly in the Customs and rum duties. The expenditure was 267,291*l.* 11*s.* 0½*d.*, against 310,508*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* in 1862. The decrease in expenditure is to be ascribed chiefly to the falling off in immigration, especially from China, but there has likewise been a diminished expenditure for "works and buildings."

Public Debt.

3. The aggregate amount of the Colonial liability is 591,454*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* Of this amount 266,800*l.* has been raised on bonds having five years to run, and is secured by notes of planters, given in payment of their proportion of the cost of introducing immigrants.

BRITISH GUIANA.

There is an Imperial guaranteed loan of 250,000*l.*, but about 100,000*l.* has been already invested in Imperial securities on account of the Sinking Fund, and satisfactory provision has been made for the payment of the entire amount at maturity.

Public Works.

4. I am happy to be able to report that the progress of the sea wall during the year 1863 has been highly satisfactory. The new court-house at Essequibo has been completed, and the various other works and buildings have been kept in repair.

Legislation.

5. Seventeen Ordinances were enacted during the year, but none of them seem to call for special notice on this occasion.

Education.

6. The report of the Inspector of Schools shows that 8,251 children were on the books of schools receiving Colonial aid, against 7,627 in 1862; and that 4,174 children were receiving instruction in other schools, making a total number of 12,425, which is rather less than 39 per cent. of the children between 5 and 15 years of age. I have every reason to be satisfied with the zeal of the Inspector of Schools, and he is cordially supported by the clergy generally, who are, with few exceptions, the patrons of the schools. The schools are subject to regular inspection, semi-annually by the Inspector, and fortnightly or monthly by the Patron, according to circumstances. The schools receiving public aid are in number 101; 51 in connexion with the Church of England, having 4,575 pupils on the books; 22 Church of Scotland, with 1,234 pupils; 22 Wesleyan, with 1,892 pupils; 4 Roman Catholic, with 385 pupils; and 2 Congregational, with 165 pupils.

Imports and Exports.

7. The value of the imports in 1863 was 1,121,979*l.* 7*s.*, against 1,107,181*l.* 6*s.* in 1862. The value of the exports was 1,679,385*l.* 11*s.* against 1,365,295*l.* in 1862. This increase is to be attributed partly to the advance in price of the staple product of the Colony, but also to a considerable increase in the quantity exported.

Gaols and Prisons.

8. The statistics do not present any features materially different from those of previous years. I trust, however, that by an improved system of keeping the gaol records a better classification of the offenders will be secured hereafter.

General Remarks.

9. There is great room for improvement in the condition of the masses of the people in this Colony. It is satisfactory to me to be able to report that, with regard to the immigrant class, which is chiefly located on the estates, a marked improvement has taken place in their dwellings, as well as in the estates hospitals. The new Immigration Ordinance has removed some obstacles which have hitherto prevented the Government from adopting efficient measures for promoting sanitary reforms, irrespective of other remedial measures; but I am enabled to report a considerable decrease in the rate of mortality among the immigrant population. The Creole population, which is chiefly located in villages, must always be a source of the deepest anxiety. There is so much to be done, so many difficulties to be encountered, and so much obloquy to be endured, that the task of ameliorating the condition of the villagers is anything but an encouraging one. The stubborn resistance of the creole villagers to taxation is the main obstacle to any measure of improvement. I have no doubt that this obstacle will ultimately be overcome, and that means will be obtained to place the villages of British Guiana in a satisfactory condition. It would not be proper for me to omit to notice the fact that in all the villages, so far as my knowledge extends, there are intelligent negroes fully alive to the value of those measures of improvement which the Government is anxious to carry out. There are also some villages in which the well-disposed are much better supported than in others. It is very gratifying to me to be able to report that in every measure that can be devised for ameliorating the condition of the labouring class of the population I can rely on the cordial co-operation of the Legislature.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) F. HINCKS.

BARBADOS.

No. 7.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Walker, C.B., to the Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, M.P.

(No. 308.) Windward Islands, Barbados,

Sir, October 31, 1864.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Island for 1863.

Duties, Taxes, Fees.

2. Under these heads there is no change to be noted. In my Report of last year reference was had to the alterations made in the Customs Tariff in 1862, which was then passed as amended for three years.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The following is the usual Table of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Island for the five last years:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1859 - - -	87,595	80,352
1860 - - -	94,752	110,873
1861 - - -	98,049	115,895
1862 - - -	93,682	93,461
1863 - -	102,572	104,795

The total amounts of Revenue and Expenditure for 1863 have been increased in nearly equal proportions on both sides by items amounting to about 8,700*l.*, and now introduced for the first time into the Public Accounts in connexion with the new Waterworks. When to this is added on the Revenue side upwards of 8,000*l.* obtained from the Colonial Bank on Loan, it will be seen that there has been anything but an increase in the regular income of the island.

The excess of expenditure too, though amounting apparently to 11,000*l.* over that of the preceding year, is partly explained by the Waterworks account, although there was undoubtedly a considerable extra outlay during the year in the building of a new female prison, and in the erection of a new bridge and other works in the Careenage.

The Customs and Tonnage duties, whence is derived much more than half of the whole Revenue, have not manifested the decline which might have been anticipated from the unfavourable circumstances of the year. These, during the five above-named years, produced as follows:—

	£
1859 - - - -	54,856
1860 - - - -	55,549
1861 - - - -	54,704
1862 - - - -	51,430
1863 - - - -	50,945

In the Excise duty on rum consumed in the island there was a material falling off, equal to 40,000 gallons, and this is simply to be accounted for by the fact that the labourers were poorer than usual last year, and had less spare money to spend upon articles other than those of absolute necessity.

Local Revenues.

4. The local taxation of the island is pretty nearly confined to parochial assessments for the relief and education of the poor, and the repair and maintenance of the church buildings and school-houses. To these must be added in St. Michael's parish a tax for the supply of water to the city, and another tax for the support of a fire brigade. The aggregate of the parochial rates in 1863 exceeded 20,000*l.*

BARBADOS.

There is also levied throughout the Island, but payable to and expended by the authorities of the respective parishes, a general Highway rate of 9*d.* an acre, and 1½*d.* in the pound upon the rental of houses; 6*d.* upon each wheel of every vehicle in use; 6*s.* upon every horse; 3*s.* 9*d.* on each mule, and 2*s.* on every ass. These taxes are received and appropriated under parochial authority, and do not therefore appear in the island accounts of Revenue and Expenditure.

The aggregate amount of the Highway rates thus raised in 1863 amounted to about 6,600*l.* In aid of this important service, grants were made by the Legislature to the extent of 5,450*l.*

This, altogether, is a large expenditure, but the service is an important one, and the present system of local organization and superintendence, under which it is carried on, is most satisfactory. The roads could not be in better condition than they are now, and the island is netted with them.

Public Debt.

5. At the close of last year the public debt of the island consisted of,—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money borrowed from Bank - - -	8,000	0	0
Purchase money of land, &c. - - -	2,808	13	4
	£10,808	13	4

At the time at which I write a further sum of 12,000*l.* has been borrowed from the Bank in consequence of a falling Revenue and perhaps an extraordinary expenditure. This money is raised on the security of the Colonial Revenue, which is pledged also, besides an annual payment of 5,000*l.* to the Waterworks Company, by way of guarantee to Debentures to the amount of 25,000*l.* with interest at 6 per cent.

Military.

5. The Militia Law remains in abeyance. The Volunteer Yeomanry Cavalry, however, though they have not perhaps mustered in equal numbers in 1863 as they did in the preceding year, have much improved in drill and discipline. For saying this I have the authority of the Major-General commanding the troops when he last inspected them. The Legislature made provision for a mounted force of 500 men, whilst the number enrolled for the present year is only 321. But as these have for the most part a heart in the movement, and all are, more or less, pretty well acquainted with their drill and exercise, they are perhaps a more serviceable corps than if the number had been larger and comprised many whose attendance would have been irregular, and who would in consequence have been not only backward in their own instruction but been a drag upon the others.

The St. Michael's brigade of Artillery are in an efficient state of discipline and drill. But there has been no re-enrolment, as might have been anticipated from my last Report, of the Speights Town battery. With regard to the Rifle Corps, I have no very good account to give. Amongst the employers in town there is great division of opinion as to the maintenance of a local force; they have given me little or no encouragement, and I have lost all heart in the movement as far as Bridgetown is concerned.

The present enrolment of the Rifles, which was for two years, will very soon expire, and then it must be determined whether, if some better spirit is not shown in the matter, it will not be necessary to resort to compulsory service.

Public Works.

7. Under this head the most important fact I have to report is the completion of the new Female Prison, which was formally handed over to me on the 12th of August by the Legislative Committee under whose immediate superintendence it was erected. The matrons and other officers were immediately appointed, and the whole of the females under sentences of imprisonment and hard labour have been transferred to it. But how I am to carry out these sentences I know not. When they were confined at the former House of Correction, a distance of 10 or 12 miles from town, it was not very difficult to find them employment in retired spots in the neighbourhood, but now that they are so close to town it will be impossible to take them beyond the walls of the prison. As soon as the present contract for the supply of their food has expired

it is proposed to impose on the female prisoners the task of baking and cooking, and making clothes, not for themselves only, but for the male prisoners, and all who are in confinement in the Lunatic and Leper asylums. This will be, however, but partial relief.

The improvements in the Careenage or Inner Harbour are progressing very satisfactorily. Since the date of my last Report another range of new wharf has been built on the northern side, but in a manner to increase largely the breadth of the water accommodation in front. Nearly all the materials for the new iron swing-bridge have arrived from the Clyde, and the piers and foundations for it are in a state of forwardness. More time and more money have been required for this service than was at first anticipated, in consequence of the great depth of the foundations, which could not well be ascertained until the boring operations had been concluded, and which made it necessary to send home for iron cylinders on which to rest the piers.

Some other improvements of a minor character have been carried out. Of these may be noticed the erection of stations for the fire brigade, the lighting of the Public Wharf by lamps, and what was called the widening of the road, but is, in truth, the formation of a spacious esplanade outside the walls of Government House and facing the town.

Legislation.

8. Forty-one Acts were passed during the year. There were the usual number of bills to continue laws about to expire, and to amend others on points more or less important. A fourth of the whole number was to carry out grants of public money for educational and other purposes, and in reference to loans from the Treasury to parochial and other bodies. Another fourth consisted of enactments in connexion with the improvements of Bridgetown, and the extension of the waterworks. And there were three Acts to secure patent rights to individuals. On the whole, however, there was nothing particularly to distinguish the legislation of the past year, though it exhibits a few humble efforts to advance, and to meet in some measure the requirements of the times. The Act for the establishment of a fire brigade, after 12 months' experience, was amended and continued for a prolonged term. The money order system was established. An Act was passed for the publication of another volume of the Laws of the Island to date, and the work has since been perfected and distributed. The system of bonding was facilitated. The privileges and exemptions now enjoyed by the ships of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company were extended to all steamers carrying mails, of which exemptions a new line of packets from Liverpool has already availed itself. And the advantages of a Savings Bank were put within the reach of depositors of one shilling at a time. With the exception of one Act passed in the early part of the year for the purpose of relieving parties from the grievances of interpleading suits, there were no measures of legal reform, and I regret that the Imperial Statutes of 1861 for the consolidation and amendment of the Criminal Law have not yet been adapted to the Island with a view to their being brought into operation here.

Council and Assembly, Civil Establishment.

9. In the legislative bodies there has been little change. The death of Mr. Gasken, the late President of the Council, leaves Dr. Grant Thomas as the senior Member to succeed him; and the Vicar-General of the diocese has been called to a seat at the Board.

In the Civil Establishment there are few incidents to be mentioned. Mr. Hampden King returned from the Administration of the Government of St. Kitts, and resumed his duties in the Assistant Court of Appeal here. Mr. Robert Reece was appointed to succeed the late Captain Senhouse as Provost Marshal; and the death of Mr. Clarke, who had been one of the Bridgetown Magistrates for upwards of 20 years, led to some advantageous changes in that body, which have given satisfaction.

Population.

10. I have had occasion to state elsewhere that this is the only place in the West Indies where the Negro population appears sensibly to increase. The annual increase is not over computed at 2 per cent., which would make an addition to the population at its present amount of about 3,000 a year. But there goes on from Barbados an easy stream of emigration, which is hardly perceptible on the spot, and is more observable in travelling through the other Colonies, where almost all the household servants are

BARBADOS.

Barbadians, and where they are to be found in every capacity. During the last and present year however there has been a more active movement in this direction, and since the spring of 1863 something like 6,000 people must have left the island for St. Croix, Antigua, Demerara, and Surinam.

The emigration to Demerara has included many mechanics, and has been of a more mixed character than that to the other places named. Still the bulk of the emigrants was of those accustomed to the use of the hoe, and there can be little doubt of the effect. I trust it will be a wholesome one, upon so large a subtraction from the adult agricultural labourers of the island, who, male and female, according to the census of 1861, numbered 34,700.

Ecclesiastical.

11. In a former Report it was stated that the number of places of worship belonging to the Established Church was 50, and that altogether provision had been made by the Legislature for 11 rectors and 26 curates to minister in them. In further attempts at church extension we are however seriously arrested by the dearth of clergymen. Neither the inducements which we can offer to curates from abroad, nor our own nursery in Codrington College have enabled us to meet the wants of the Church throughout the diocese, and at this moment in Barbados alone it has become necessary in several instances, I hope only for a short time, to merge in the same individual more than one curacy, for which separate and independent provision has been made. The attendance of the lower classes at church has also fallen off very much, but this is attributable to their inability to purchase clothes as formerly. The greatly enchanced price of cotton goods has put it quite out of the power of those poor people to dress as they have been accustomed, and unless they can appear in their finery they won't appear at all. The same falling off in the attendance at the Wesleyan and Moravian places of worship is noted and lamented by the missionary teachers, and is produced by the same cause.

Education.

12. I regret very much to say that the attendance at the schools generally during the last 18 months has been also very unsatisfactory, and is operated on by the same causes as I have adverted to in regard to their presence at Divine worship. The parents have not the means of sending their children properly clad to school or of paying their small school fees as formerly; such has been the effect of the rise in the price of British manufactured goods, of the scarcity and consequent high price of provisions during the greater part of these last two years, and of the undeniable reductions which have been made throughout the island generally in the great item of labour. The diminution in the number of pupils has acted with peculiar pressure on the teachers, a hard-working and deserving class, whose direct income, as well as the auxiliary portion of it derived from the Education Committee, is necessarily dependent upon the numbers and contributions of their scholars.

Imports and Exports.

13. Pursuing the usual comparison of the preceding five years, the imports and exports during that time have been:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1859 - - -	1,049,236	1,225,571
1860 - - -	941,761	984,294
1861 - - -	923,874	1,075,374
1862 - - -	913,141	1,067,612
1863 - - -	878,208	981,142

Of the imports nearly 400,000*l.* were from the United States, chiefly in provisions, which is somewhat in excess of the average of our imports from America. The value of manufactured goods from the United Kingdom has however fallen to below one-half of what it had been for several years past, and when their increased price is borne in mind it may safely be calculated that the quantity imported was little more than a fourth of the usual amount.

The sugar has been placed in the exports at 15*l.* per hogshead. This is by far too favourable an estimate of the sum realized for the crop of 1863, although the rise in price which took place towards the close of the year realized for the few who had not then parted with their stocks sums far above that amount.

The crops for the last five years stand thus:—

	Hogsheads.
1859	40,343
1860	43,365
1861	49,845
1862	46,078
1863	42,436

I regret that the crop of this year is again below that of the preceding year, and was equal only to 36,107 hogsheads. The wonder is, how with the droughts of 1863 and the early part of 1864, the one following so immediately on the other, it has been possible to extract even that quantity of sugar from the parched and shallow soil of this extraordinary little place; it says a great deal for the perseverance and industry of the people, the high cultivation of the land, and something too, for the hardy and enduring character of the cane plant, which can live, it may be with a sickly hue, through such trials, but which so soon recovers and flourishes with the least propitious weather.

Short as the crop has been, however, there is no doubt that the good sales which have been effected of a great part of it will have made it a much more remunerative one than any of its three predecessors.

The total amount of tonnage inwards was 124,073, and exceeded that of 1862 by about 8,000 tons. The British tonnage rose in 1863 to 98,251 from 88,530 in 1862. There was a considerable diminution at the same time in the number of vessels sailing under the American flag.

Crime.

14. I come now to a gloomy part of my Report. In 1863 there were more prisoners in confinement than in any preceding year. The highest number was in the month of October, when it reached 647, inclusive of between 20 and 30 debtors. The causes of this unhappy state of things lay in an unexampled scarcity and high price of food, and in the general poverty of the island. The privations of the people were great beyond measure, and the vast majority of those who found their way into prison were persons convicted of stealing growing provisions. Many of them were in a most feeble condition, and barely clothed. The mortality amongst them during the year was 15, but the hospitals were crowded. In the total number committed during the year, 3,727, there were 1,961 cases of sickness. But whilst there were so many of the prisoners whose wants and privation had led them to offend against the law, and who to a degree commanded our sympathy, there were others who seem to have brought into prison the same lawlessness and contempt of all order and decency which had marked their conduct outside, and which had led to so much outrage throughout the island; cases of flagrant breach of prison discipline were in consequence, of frequent occurrence.

Although I am happy to have it in my power to report that a great improvement has since taken place in this fearful state of things, yet there is still room for more. At the time I write there are 489 prisoners, male and female, a large proportion of them for stealing growing provisions. And although I am by no means inclined to palliate these offences at a time when there is no want of employment, and when food is so cheap as to be within the reach of all who will earn the smallest wages, still I am not very sanguine as to any great and immediate change for the better. The tendency of the emigration to which I have referred in a former part of this paper is, of course, to take away the able-bodied labourer, and to leave upon our hands the old, the infirm, the sickly, and the young; and the numberless cases of distress and destitution which now present themselves are, in 19 cases out of 20, or even in a larger proportion, owing to desertion by parents and other natural protectors who have left the island. The recent emigration to Demerara has been particularly fruitful of such cases. When we hear of the teeming population of Barbados, therefore, people must not jump to the conclusion that it consists only of a redundancy of labour.

This is a state of things which we cannot help, and which we must combat as well as we can, and means must be found for giving all who are unable to work at least one good daily meal, and for clothing them in a fashion which should at least prevent improper exposure. But I refer to it now for the purpose of showing that we must be surprised neither by the frequency of petty thefts, nor by the circumstance that many of the offenders are brought to prison in a feeble and shamefully clad condition.

BARBADOS.

Sanitary.

15. The health of the Island during 1863, and the whole of the present year to date, has been unexceptionable, as indeed it generally is in dry seasons, and when free from epidemic.

General.

16. The present general condition of the island, however, is undoubtedly an improvement upon what it was last year. The improved prices which the planters received for their produce at the close of 1863, and during the first six months of this year, had the effect of circulating a large additional sum of money, the full benefit of which was soon assuredly felt by the labouring classes. There has been a genial season for the cane as well as for the growth of the staple food of the poorer classes, and if the recent downward tendency of the sugar market has checked the favourable calculations which the planter never fails to make on the slightest appearance of prosperity, his ever sanguine temperament seems to find amazing consolation in the brilliant prospects of the forthcoming crop.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) JAMES WALKER.

GRENADA.

GRENADA.

No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor WALKER, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 193.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, July 12, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of Grenada for the year 1863, together with a copy of Lieutenant-Governor Mundy's Report which accompanied it.

No. 48, July 1, 1863.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) JAMES WALKER.

Enclosure in No. 8.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR of GRENADA to GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF.

(No. 48.)

Government House, Grenada, July 1, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for 1863, with a Report thereon.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

The only alteration that has been made under this head during the year is the imposition of certain rates on the shipping and inhabitants of the town of Grenville in the parish of St. Andrew, to enable the Commissioners of that Port to repay a loan of 900*l.* authorized to be raised by Act No. 340, for the purpose of introducing a stream of fresh water into that town. This loan has not, however, as yet been effected; and the Act is

not, therefore, in practical operation. There are no alterations in the fees; those receivable by the Secretary and Provost-Marshal are paid monthly into the Treasury.

Revenue.

The revenue of the Colony during the year 1863 amounted to 19,105*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, of which the sum of 7,773*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* was derived from duties on imports, 5,831*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* from taxes and fees collected under various Acts of the Legislature, and 5,500*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* proceeds of taxes under the annual Supply Act, and of sums collected from miscellaneous sources. These several items of revenue, together with 2,000*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* surplus of 1862, placed at the disposal of the Colony the sum of 21,106*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* for the services of the year. The following is a comparative statement of the revenue for the years 1862 and 1863:—

Revenue.	1862.	1863.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Fixed Revenue -	14,581 1 4	13,604 14 3	- - -	976 7 1
Revenue in aid -	3,816 6 1	5,500 11 7	1,684 5 6	—
	18,397 7 5	19,105 5 10	1,684 5 6	976 7 1
Surplus of previous year	1,174 18 1	2,000 17 6	—	—
£	19,572 5 6	21,106 3 4	1,684 5 6	976 7 1
Deduct decrease from fixed revenue -			976 7 1	
Total increase from all sources in 1863 £			707 18 5	

The above statement shows a net increase in 1863 of 707*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* as compared with the revenue of the previous year, which has been derived, not from increased taxation, but from the appropriation by legislative authority of certain surplus funds appearing to the credit of the harbour and water funds, and also the transfer from the Post Office account fund of the share of postage applicable to the Colony. The decrease in the fixed revenue arises upon the item of Customs duties consequent upon diminished imports.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year was 19,601*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, being 2,030*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* over that of the previous year. The cause of this increase is to be found principally in the payment of certain arrears due for the repairs of the public roads in 1862, which had been standing over in consequence of the revenue of that year falling short of its requirements, and the grant towards the maintenance of schools which did not appear as an item of expenditure in 1862.

A comparative statement between the two years is subjoined.

——	1862.	1863.	Increase.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Expenditure - -	17,571 8 0	19,601 14 5	2,030 6 5

Local Revenues.

	£ s. d.
Under this head the amount collected during the year, including the surplus on 1st January 1863, was - - - - -	518 14 2
The expenditure for the repairs of the streets in the several towns of the Colony amounted to - - - - - -	330 11 8
Leaving a surplus of - - - . - -	£188 2 6

Water Tax, Port of St. George.

To the credit of this fund on 1st January 1863 - - -			780 15 2
Collected during the year - - - - -			201 12 9
		£982	7 11
Expenditure, including a loan to the General Revenue Fund of 687*l.* 13*s.* 3 rying interest at 4 per cent. - - .		875	7 6
Leaving a surplus of - - - - - -		£107	0 5

Harbour Dues.

	£	*s.*	*d.*			
Collected during the year - - -	88	9	4			
Surplus from 1862 - - - -	695	4	8			
				783	14	0
Appropriated to the uses of the Colony - -	694	4	8			
For repairs - - - - -	3	2	6			
				698	7	2
Leaving a balance of - - - - - -				£85	6	10

Rents of Public Lands and Buildings.

There ap s of revenue - - - - -		229	17 2
Expenditure - - - . - -		105	18 6
Surplus - - - - -		£123	18 8

The revenue under this head is derivable from the rents of the lands and buildings formerly used for military purposes, and handed over to the Colony by Her Majesty's Government. The revenue is appropriated towards upholding the buildings.

Immigration Fund.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Balance at credit, January 1, 1863 - - - -	2,485	14	7
Collected during the year - - - - -	5,995	11	5
	8,481	6	0
Expenditure - - - - - - -	5,056	7	9
Surplus - - - - -	3,424	18	3
In the hands of Emigration Commissioners - - -	801	3	3
	£4,226	1	6

The surplus fund includes a sum of 2,000*l.* deposited with the Colonial Bank to meet the local loan of 2,000*l.* secured under Act No. 316, leaving a surplus, including the amount with the Emigration Commissioners, of 2,226*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, to meet any future requirements for immigration.

Post Office.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Balance on January 1, 1863 - - - - -	276	2	9
Revenue from stamps, &c., sold - - - - -	629	8	9
	805	11	6
Expenditure during the year, including 348*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* remitted to Her Majesty's Government as its quota of postage - -	717	6	11
Surplus - - - - -	£88	4	7

Colony Hospital.

	£	s.	d.
Arrears of previous year	84	18	7½
Receipts of the institution, including a vote of 300*l.* from the Legislature	462	14	8½
	547	13	4
Disbursements during the year, including outstanding debts	811	16	3½
Due by the institution	£264	2	11½

The legislative grant towards this institution was reduced from 500*l.* to 300*l.* during the past year, which it was supposed would have been sufficient; but from the increased number of patients, consisting chiefly of Indian immigrants, the revenue was found insufficient to meet the expenditure of the year. But the Legislature has since provided for that deficiency.

Casual Revenues.

Under this head there appears a sum of 102*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* in the hands of the receiver of these revenues.

Church Lands Fund.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand of receiver				128	17	9
Revenue				49	11	4
				178	9	1
Expenditure	65	3	9			
Surplus	113	5	4			
				£178	9	1

This fund is solely applicable to the purposes in connexion with the Church of England.

Port of Grenville.

The revenue under this head, amounting to 223*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*, appears to have been equal to the expenditure. It is derived from a tax leviable upon the shippers of produce at that port for pilotage dues.

Public Debt.

The public debt of the Colony to the 31st December 1863 was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Imperial guaranteed loan for immigration purposes	7,000	0	0
Local loan in aid of the same fund	2,000	0	0
	£9,000	0	0

Of this first loan, redeemable in 20 years from July 1, 1858, interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum is payable half-yearly, and a sum at the rate of one-twentieth part of the loan is remitted yearly as a sinking fund. The fund invested for this purpose to 31st December last amounted, in 3 per cent. stocks, to 2,240*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* The local loan of 2,000*l.* is the balance of a loan of 5,000*l.* contracted in June 1862 for immigration, and redeemable at the expiration of five years, with interest at 6 per cent. per annum. Of this loan, 3,000*l.* has already been repaid, and the balance of 2,000*l.* appearing against the Colony is deposited with the Colonial Bank at interest at 3 per cent. per annum.

Public Works.

No public works of any importance have been undertaken during the year. The expenditure under this head, amounting to 2,200*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.*, is the necessary expenditure upon the public roads and streets during the year.

Legislation.

Seventeen Acts have been assented to during the year.

The only Public Acts of importance passed by the Legislature are those authorizing the deposit of the public monies with the Colonial Bank, sanctioning the monthly instead of quarterly payment of the public servants of the Colony, granting an increased salary to the Immigration Agent, and reducing the duty upon exports.

Population.

By the census taken in April 1861 the population of the Colony was represented at 31,900. By adding the difference between the baptisms and burials, as shown by the returns of the clergy and ministers of religion from that period, the population to 31st December 1863 is estimated at 33,880, showing an apparent increase of 1,980 from natural causes, and by adding the immigration into the Colony during 1862 and 1863, in the aggregate to 1,350 souls, will show a total estimated population to 31st December 1863 of 35,230. The means by which this estimate is arrived at are not to be relied on as regards accuracy, and it is much to be regretted that no Act regulating the proper registration of births and deaths exists in this island.

Education.

The following schedule exhibits the state of the educational establishment during the last two years.

Year.	No. of Schools.	No. of Teachers.	Total Number of Scholars.	Increase.
1862 - -	25	25	1,584	—
1863 - -	25	27	1,824	240

These schools are principally maintained at the public expense, and 500*l.* was granted by the Supply Act of 1863 for the schools that had been in operation during 1862, and 900*l.* for those in 1863.

The educational system for the last two years has not been on a satisfactory footing; but as the Act suspending the operation of the Education Act expired on the 31st of December, it is hoped the next report will show an improvement under this head.

Imports and Exports.

The returns exhibit a falling off in the value of imports to the amount of 22,443*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, while there has been an increase in the exports to the value of 24,616*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*

The decrease in the imports is chiefly in flour, lumber, rice, wine, and on unenumerated goods.

The increase in the exportation arises from the increased quantity of the staple products of the island over that of the former year, in consequence of the crop of 1862 not having been so large as was estimated. The following are the comparative statements of the value of imports and exports for 1862 and 1863.

COUNTRIES.	Imports therefrom.				Exports thereto.			
	1862.		1863.		1862.		1863.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
United Kingdom - -	47,749 4 1		36,944 1 10		80,557 4 3		102,701 17 3	
British Colonies - - -	45,048 19 7		44,222 18 1		5,088 12 2		6,858 18 1	
United States - - -	18,222 15 4		8,171 13 4		1,116 5 10		33 15 0	
Other Foreign Colonies -	1,497 9 2		736 3 5		1,098 14 6		2,882 17 6	
Totals - - £	112,518 11 2		90,074 16 8		87,860 16 9		112,477 7 10	

Agriculture.

Although there has been a marked improvement in the quantity of produce exported over that of 1862, yet, owing to the unprecedented drought of that year, the crop of 1863 was much under the usual average; this, added to the depressed state of the sugar market during the greater part of the year, created great disappointment to the planting interest, but the rise of prices towards the close of the year caused increased exertion, and it is to be hoped that the present crop will show a further improvement.

Gaols and Prisons.

The following return of convictions from the Provost Marshal shows an increase of 64 prisoners over that of the previous year. The increase has been principally for minor offences adjudicated upon by the magistrates, the greater portion of which have been for breach of contract. One coolie was convicted of murder and executed.

Return of prisoners convicted by the Supreme Court and by magistrates during 1862 and 1863.

Year.	Supreme Court.		Magistrates.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1862 - -	15	1	148	27
1863 - -	19	3	196	37

Charitable Institutions.

There are six medical districts in the island, the medical officer of each of which receives 100*l.* a year from the public funds for attendance on the poor. There is a resident health officer at Carriacou, under whose superintendence a dispensary is conducted in that island; he receives a salary of 300*l.* a year, and attends poor and destitute sick persons. There is a hospital in the town of St. George for the reception of the poor and destitute, which, although strictly speaking a private institution, receives an annual subsidy from the Colony. There are a poorhouse and lunatic asylum which are supported entirely by legislative grants. They are under the control of a Board of Guardians appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, who is visitor of both institutions. There is also an almshouse for the reception of destitute females who have been in better circumstances. This institution is supported wholly by private contributions.

General Observations.

The sanitary condition of the Colony during the year 1863 appears to have been good. No epidemic has been prevalent. A good understanding existed between the employers and employed, and the state of the Colony generally, although not showing any marked progress, may be considered as satisfactory.

I have, &c.

Governor Walker, C.B., &c. &c.

(Signed) ROBERT M. MUNDY.

TOBAGO.

TOBAGO.

No. 9.

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor WALKER, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 114.)

Windward Islands, Barbados,
May 23, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of Tobago for 1863, with the usual Report from the Lieutenant-General on the condition of the island.

No. 41. 12th May 1864.

2. From the Lieutenant-Governor's Despatch it will be observed that the state of the Island during the period of his administration contrasts very favourably with that of the few years which preceded it; and I owe it to Mr. Drysdale to state that in those departments of the public service, the improvement of which depended in some measure on his personal administration, his proceedings have been characterized by skill and discretion.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES WALKER.

Enclosure in No. 9.

Lieutenant-Governor DRYSDALE to Governor WALKER.

(No. 41.)

Government House, Tobago,
May 12, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1863 in duplicate.

2. In the absence of any particular occurrence during the past year calling for special observation, a few general remarks on the present state of the Colony, with a retrospective glance over the past, may not perhaps be considered inappropriate in the last Blue Book Report which I may be called upon to make on the condition of this island.

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
3. The actual expenditure for the year 1863 was - -	8,769	4	5
The actual revenue - - - - -	8,278	13	6
Showing deficiency of revenue of - - - -	490	10	11
To which must be added balance due for 1862, paid in 1863, amounting to - - - - - -	482	9	11
And also amount of outstanding liabilities estimated - -	80	0	0
Exhibiting a total deficiency of revenue to meet the expenditure and liabilities of 1863 of - - - - -	1,053	0	10

4. The inconsiderate reduction of the tax on the annual value of lands, tenements, and hereditaments from 10 to 7½ per cent. in the Supply Bill for 1863, by which the revenue was greatly diminished, caused the balance against the Colony at the end of the year to be more than double what it was at the close of the previous year 1862.

5. The revenue at present raised is manifestly inadequate to cover the ordinary expenditure, and it must follow as a necessary consequence that the public debt will increase at the rate of at least 500*l.* annually, unless the property tax be reimposed at its former rate, or the revenue be supplemented from some other source.

	£	s.	d.
6. The actual payments for 1862, including arrears of former years (940*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*), amounted to - - -	10,205	4	7
The actual expenditure for 1863, including arrears of the previous year (482*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*), amounted to - -	9,251	14	4
	£953	10	3

This excess of expenditure 1862 over that of 1863 is to a considerable extent due to certain payments (450*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*) for extraordinary services which formed no charge on, the revenue of 1863, and if the difference between the amount of the arrears paid in 1862 and those paid in 1863, 457*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*, 908*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, be deducted from the apparent excess of expenditnre in 1862, the real difference will be found to be 44*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

	£	s.	d.
7. The revenue of 1863 was - - - - -	8,278	13	6
„ 1862 „ - - - - -	10,093	16	5
Excess of revenue 1862 over 1863 - - -	£1,815	2	11

This diminution of revenue in 1863 is mainly owing to a loss on customs and tonnage dues of 733*l.*, and on the property tax of 5 per cent., 1,243*l.*, and the balance to less miscellaneous receipts, 572*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*

8. It is clear, therefore, that as the ordinary expenditure for the year did not exceed that of the previous year, had it not been owing to the accidental deficiency in the receipt of the customs duties, and the loss by the unwise reduction of the property tax, the revenue of 1863, deficient as it was in many other items, would still have more than sufficed to cover the expenditure and liabilities of the year.

9. Hence although, as shown above, the year closed with an adverse balance of over a thousand pounds, yet it must not be concluded that the derangement in the public finances is more than of a temporary character, for the loss on the customs duties was speedily redeemed by the arrival early in 1864 of vessels whose import and tonnage dues should properly have belonged to 1863, and then only remains the deficiency arising from the insufficiency of the property tax to be made good and provided against for the future. The present exhausted state of the treasury necessarily entails some delay in satisfying the claims of all the public creditors, but it is transitory, and nothing to compare with what was but a few years ago the normal state of bankruptcy of the public chest. In 1851 the sum of 4,500*l.* sterling was borrowed by the Colony from the Hurricane Loan Commissioners (ostensibly for the purpose of repairing the public buildings) and appropriated to the payment of the public debt, which had accumulated in that and preceding years. Five years later the debt against the Colony had again outrun the ordinary ways and means, and in 1856 treasury bills for 2,752*l.* sterling, bearing interest at 6 per cent., were issued to pay off sums due to public officers and other public creditors. These bills have been all since redeemed, but there remains a balance of 4,000*l.* sterling still due by the Colony on the Imperial loan, of which sum 1,978*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* is due by private borrowers, and 2,021*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* by the Colony.

Imports and Exports.

	£	s.	d.
The value of the imports in 1863 is given as - - -	46,869	0	0
Against, in 1862 - - - - - -	55,375	0	0
Showing a depreciation of - - - -	£8,506	0	0

The falling off in the importation of cotton goods from the United Kingdom was even greater in 1863 than in 1862 as compared with 1861, added to which there were no arrivals of ships with supplies from Great Britain, as usual at the end of the year. On the other hand there was in 1863 an increase on the importation of wheat flour (478 barrels) and of salted pork (444 barrels) over that of the previous year.

The value of the exports in 1863 is estimated at 48,961*l.* against 75,428*l.* in 1862, the difference arising from a short crop and the diminished value of colonial produce.

Agriculture.

The sugar crop of last year reached only 3,291 hhds. or 52,922 cwt., and the then depressed state of the market has had an unfavourable effect on the preparation for the crop to be reaped this year.

TOBAGO.

In 1857 there were 60 sugar estates in cultivation; there are now 65, to which may be added six other smaller estates which have been annexed to and worked with other properties, making a total of 71 estates now in full cultivation. Of these, 58 belong to resident proprietors and 13 to absentees, no less than 21 estates having passed from absentees to resident owners during the last seven years.

The average sugar crop during six years prior to 1858 was 55,180 cwt., the average crop during the last six years was 64,837 cwt., showing an average increase of 9,657 cwt., notwithstanding the very bad season and short crop of 1857 and 1863.

Under the stimulus of an improved state of the market for colonial produce, cane cultivation has been largely extended this year, and there is every prospect that the crop of 1865 will fully equal that of 1862, which was the largest crop shipped since 1839.

The quantity of sugar made in 1862 was more than double the quantity made in 1841, and nearly twice as much as the crop of 1857, being 83,193 cwt. in 1862, compared with 48,096 cwt. in 1857.

The following is a comparative statement of the quantity of sugar exported from this and the other three small islands in the Windward Government compiled from the published Statistical Tables of 1860:—

ISLANDS.	Population last Census.	Quantity of Sugar exported.	Proportion per Head on total Population.	Proportion per Head, assuming $\frac{1}{5}$ of Population to be employed in production of Sugar.
		cwt.	lbs.	lbs.
Tobago -	15,410	59,052	429	2,146
Grenada -	31,900	102,534	360	1,800
St. Vincent -	31,755	135,000	476	2,380
St. Lucia -	27,141	71,412	293	1,468

The crop of 1860 in Tobago was below the average.

The average crop of Tobago for the last six years gives a proportion of 470 lbs. per head on the total population, or of 2,352 lbs. per head on one-fifth of the population. The sugar crop shipped in 1862 gave a proportion of 605 lbs. per head on the total population, or of 3,025 lbs. per head on one-fifth of the population.

Immigration.

In 1862 an allotment of 225 liberated Africans were brought to the island from St. Helena. There have been but few deaths amongst them, and their general health and conduct is reported to be good and satisfactory. Under the new regulations the cost of future importations must be borne by the Colony, for which, however, no provision has been yet made by the Legislature, although its expediency and necessity are fully recognized by those most interested in the promotion of the immigration of additional labourers as a means of securing continuous labour on the sugar estates at all seasons.

Legislation.

Besides the necessary revenual Acts passed during the last six years, the following are some of the most important measures adopted by the Legislature:—

Acts providing for—

1. The adoption of the West India Incumbered Estates Act, 1854.
2. The appropriation of Her Majesty's Casual Revenues in Tobago.
3. Punishments in lieu of Transportation.
4. For the establishment and maintenance of a Court of Appeal.
5. For the better Registration of Deeds.
6. To limit the duration of Imprisonment for Debt in certain cases.
7. Regulation of the Admission of Barristers.
8. To facilitate the remedies on Bills of Exchange, &c.
9. To extend the Franchise.
10. To authorize the appointment of Stipendiary Magistrates.
11. To provide for the treatment of Liberated Africans.
12. To regulate the prepayment of Intercolonial Postage.
13. To establish Courts for recovery of Petty Debts.

Taxes and Taxation.

The principal sources of revenue are the customs and tonnage dues, an assessment of 7½ per cent. on the annual value of properties, and spirit retail licences. There is no export duty nor excise tax on rum, and there are no municipal or parochial taxes for local objects, as in most of the other colonies, neither is there any impost for immigration purposes. The average rate of taxation "per capita" is from 10 to 12 shillings, which, considering that it covers *all* the local expenditure, is by no means large, and is considerably less than the rate levied in the other islands.

Stipendiary Magistrates.

The last of the Special Stipendiary Justices formerly paid out of the Imperial Treasury having died in 1861, provision was made by local statute for the appointment of three Stipendiary Justices, holding periodical weekly Courts of Petty Sessions and Courts for the Recovery of Petty Debts and Demands, acting also as Coroners and Justices of the Peace for the body of the island, and having exclusive jurisdiction in all matters relating to immigrants. It was not without difficulty that the consent of the two branches of the Legislature was given to the Act appointing the Stipendiary Magistrates, a Bill having the same object in view having been previously rejected by the Council, but the experience already had of its beneficial operation has amply sufficed to convince every one of the utility and advantage of the measure in securing the prompt and impartial administration of justice.

Police.

The Act embodying a Police Force was passed in 1854. It authorizes the appointment of one inspector-general, a superintending serjeant, two serjeants, six corporals, and 24 privates; but the full complement of officers and men has never been enlisted, the strength of the force being now one inspector-general, one serjeant, four corporals, and 15 privates. In 1858 I caused to be enrolled a small body of pensioners, discharged soldiers from the West India regiments, to act as a reserve police force in case of any emergency, and this arrangement has proved satisfactory in every respect, as it secures the services of a small body of disciplined old soldiers at less cost than the employment of raw recruits in the regular police force, and obviates the necessity of augmenting the force to its full number. The whole force, regular and reserve, are regularly drilled in the exercise of fire-arms and artillery practice, and the regulars are lodged in barracks when at headquarters, close to which the men composing the reserve all dwell within easy call.

Prisons and Prisoners.

In 1858 the old gaol, situated in the town of Scarborough, on a most unhealthy site, and which had long been condemned as unfit for the custody of prisoners, was finally closed, and the prisoners removed to a large, commodious, and well-adapted building at Fort King George, with proper wards and cells, and every facility for the proper classification of the prisoners. To the establishment of the new gaol were also added a Chaplain and a matron, the want of whose services had been a source of grievance and complaint in the old gaol. The number of prisoners in gaol on the 31st December 1863 was 15, classified as follows:—

Felons	7
Petty theft	5
Debt	1
For trial	2
Total	15

The following comparative statement exhibits a considerable diminution in the number of convictions:—

		Average.
Total number of felons during six years prior to 1858	77	12⅚
do. do. last six years	27	4½
Total number of misdemeanors and other offences during six years prior to 1858	735	122½
Do. do. during the last six years	409	68⅙
Total number of debtors during six years prior to 1858	61	10⅙
Do. do. during the last six years	15	2½

TOBAGO.

The health of the prisoners has been generally good; there has been no epidemic or serious disease; and there has not been a death amongst the prisoners during the last six years, nor for some years previous.

The classification of the prisoners has been studiously observed, and the discipline of the gaol has been well maintained, and there have been but few instances of refractory conduct or violation of the prison rules.

Education.

The cause of education still continues to gain ground; the returns for the schools exhibiting an increase in the number of children attending during the past year.

The number of pupils in attendance at the schools of the Church of England and of the Wesleyan and Moravian missions was:—

In 1859	- -	1,545,	showing a centesimal proportion of 10·02/00
In 1861	- -	1,949,	„ „ „ 12·64/00
In 1863	- -	2,070,	„ „ „ 13·43/00

During the last year the schools of each of these religious denominations were assisted by grants of 100*l.* each from the public funds, the surplus cost of these institutions being provided for by school fees and private donations.

The Sunday schools of all denominations are largely attended.

Ecclesiastical.

By the death of one clergyman and the withdrawal of another curate the establishment of the Church of England has been reduced to three rectors and one catechist or reader. There are five churches and three chapels, with an attendance averaging between two and three thousand. Each rector receives a stipend of 320*l.* from the public treasury. There are seven Wesleyan chapels, with two ministers, and the United Brethren have three places of worship, with three missionaries. These receive no aid from public funds. Their churches and chapels are numerously attended by decent and orderly congregations.

Conclusion.

The general condition of the Colony, as exhibited under the foregoing heads, may confidently be pronounced to be satisfactory, notwithstanding a temporary derangement of its finances, attributable solely to an injudicious curtailment of the ways and means to meet the ordinary expenditure, and the balance against the Colony which has been thus created through inadvertence, and not through any wasteful or extravagant expenditure, may easily be remedied by the restoration of the property tax to its former rate.

The revenue raised in 1863 was equivalent to a rate of 10*s.* 8¾*d.* per head, and might be raised to a rate of 12*s.* per head without forming an undue burden on a population not otherwise taxed, and with manifest advantage to the public general good. Even with this deficiency it must be admitted that the financial position of the Colony is incomparably better than it was but a few years ago, when the public debts had to be liquidated by large loans and the issue of treasury debentures.

There has been considerable progress in agricultural operations; more estates are in cultivation, and the evils of absenteeism have been greatly diminished, and an average increase of nearly 10,000 cwt. on the sugar crop during the last six years indicates unmistakeable improvements; whilst the proportion which the staple product bears to the island population, compared with what is obtained in the other islands, is the best evidence of a fertile soil and good husbandry, aided by the industry of a happy and peaceful peasantry.

The marked decrease of crime, and the rare occurrence of offences of a grave character, are worthy of note when contrasted with the favourable progress of religious and secular education, whose salutary influence on the community at large has unquestionably contributed to the maintenance of that general peace and tranquillity which has now been the happy lot of this island for many years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. V. DRYSDALE,
Lieutenant-Governor.

His Excellency Governor Walker, C.B.,
&c. &c.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor WALKER, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 241.) Windward Islands, Barbados,
SIR, June 15, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the Blue Book of St. Vincent for the year 1863, with a Report on the condition and prospects of the island to the present date. No. 68, 28th May 1864.

2. The Colonial Secretary deserves praise for the creditable manner in which the Blue Book itself has been compiled.

I have, &c.
The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., (Signed) JAS. WALKER.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 10.

A. MUSGRAVE, Esq., to Governor WALKER.

(No. 68.) Government House, St. Vincent,
SIR, May 28, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency in duplicate the Blue Book of St. Vincent for the year 1863, and it is gratifying to me to believe, on relinquishing this Government, that these returns contain evidences of considerable improvement in the position of the Colony and the condition of public affairs since I last reported at length in my Despatch No. 193, of 7th July 1862. As my administration is now about to terminate, and some important measures have been adopted or brought to completion since the period embraced in the annual returns, I shall advert to them under their proper heads in the few remarks I shall submit upon these tables, so as to bring my report upon the state of public affairs up to the present time.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. Notwithstanding the great commercial depression which your Excellency is aware existed throughout all this group of islands during last year, the total true revenue raised under the same heads was more than 1,000*l.* in excess of that for 1862. This is attributable chiefly to the addition wisely made by the Legislature to the excise duty on rum,—a tax of a most legitimate character in these colonies,—and to the increased rates on certain imports. Some fear was expressed that these latter would tend to decrease consumption, and defeat the end in view; but in these small communities the operation of general principles of political economy is very much limited by local circumstances, and I was able to satisfy myself and others that the dreaded effect was not produced. There was no diminution of importation which could not be accounted for by other causes, and but for the increased rates imposed, very serious inconvenience would have been experienced from the deficit in collections of duty on articles on which the rate had not been increased. The last Act passed in the session of 1863 was an additional Tax Act, imposing licences on all traders and shopkeepers. No effect from this is visible in the Tables for 1863, but it has been found to be a valuable measure, working with little difficulty, and I think may yet be improved upon. The revenue raised under this enactment has not equalled the estimate, but it has had the effect of assisting to enforce the provisions of the Hucksters' Licence Act, and has contributed material aid to the finances with little or no hardship to any one.

3. Leaving out of the question exceptional expenditure in 1862, for immigration, expenses of the riots, and repayment of a loan from the Colonial Bank, the disbursements under almost all heads are less in 1863 than in the previous year. Even where this appears on the Tables not to be the case, the reason is that a better financial position at the end of the year enabled the payment of all salaries and public liabilities up to date

ST. VINCENT. on the 31st December; thus the returns for 1863 include expenditure for 13 months, and in some instances for five quarters. The only real increase of expenditure is shown under the head of prisons. This is caused by the greatly augmented number of prisoners from conviction for offences during the riots of 1862.

Public Debt.

4. The year 1864 commenced, in consequence of the better financial position I have mentioned, with no outstanding current liabilities of any moment, and with no other debt than 4,400*l.* due to the Colonial Immigration Fund under Loan Acts passed in 1862, partly to liquidate an accumulation of ordinary obligations which the Legislature at that time had not sufficiently provided for, and partly to meet the pressure of unavoidable expense caused by the riots. 2,400*l.* of the total amount is repayable at the end of this year; provision for paying off the liability was considered in framing the estimates for this year, and I am sanguine that there will be no great difficulty in doing so without postponing for any length of time other obligations, even supposing that the depression from which the colonies still suffer should operate unfavourably upon sources of revenue and reduce collections below the amounts estimated.

Military Expenditure—Militia.

5. The military expenditure shown in 1863 was incurred for the transport of a company of Her Majesty's troops to and from this Colony, and the extraordinary expenses attendant on their maintenance here from October 1862 to the end of April 1863, when the detachment returned to Barbados. The amount appears in the Comparative Statement of Expenditure, under the head of "Riots Expenses," the expenditure having been entirely caused by the lamentable riots which in various ways have so largely affected the character and course of public affairs within the last 18 months.

6. From them, however, has sprung at least one most beneficial result in the organization of an efficient protective force, consisting of a troop of cavalry, a battery of artillery, and two hundred infantry, militia, and volunteers, in all amounting in strength to 347 officers and men. Your Excellency is aware of the difficulties which were experienced both before and subsequently to the riots in dealing with this subject at all, and particularly in obtaining due provision for the necessary expense. I am happy to know that these have now, by patience and perseverance, been satisfactorily overcome. The Colony possesses a force of which your Excellency was pleased on a recent inspection to express yourself very favourably, and which needs little more than to be maintained in its present state. The several corps are furnished with excellent arms, the loan of Her Majesty's Government. Unexceptionable clothing and accoutrements have been obtained from England, well suited to the climate, and which have already been paid for; and the organization may be regarded as finally completed by the recent Act forwarded to your Excellency. I take little personal credit to myself for that which mainly is due to the good feeling and public spirit of many by whom I have been supported in my efforts to accomplish this result. But I own that it is satisfactory to me to know on quitting the Government that I leave established what I believe to be the best guarantee against turbulence, and most effective insurance for the protection of property. Your Excellency will be glad to learn that the best spirit continues to prevail among the members of the several corps. The artillery battery, the Kingstown company of infantry, and the Saint George's volunteers paraded voluntarily on Her Majesty's birthday for the purpose of firing a Royal salute and feu-de-joie.

Public Works.

7. No new or special public works were undertaken during the year; but much improvement was effected in many districts, especially in the neighbourhood of Kingstown, in the public roads, and some progress was made in restoring public buildings. Repairs much needed in the gaol were accomplished, which had previously been postponed from lack of funds, and the extensive premises known as the Ordnance Buildings, including, as your Excellency knows, the Revenue and Treasury Department, the Post Office, and the Police Barracks, besides public warehouses, was put into good and substantial repair, which I hope will last for some time. In framing the estimates for 1864 we endeavoured to continue the work so begun, and votes have been included in the Appropriation Act, 1864, for some special work of the highways, for the repair of St. Paul's Church, Calliaqua, the courthouse, and the police stations at Barrowallie and Colonarie.

Legislation.

8. The product of the legislative session of 1863 was very extensive for Saint Vincent, and, I think almost without exception, very important in character. Twenty-six Acts were passed by the Council and Assembly in 1863, some of which may be regarded as the foundations of much practical future good to the Colony; and in the early part of the present session of 1864 four others have been added, which I look upon as of the greatest value.

9. The second and third Acts of the session of 1863 were those for the purpose of augmenting the rates of customs duty on certain articles, and to increase the excise duty on rum to 2*s.* per gallon. Supposing no appreciable effect on consumption to be produced on years of average prosperity, these Acts ought to give a permanent increase to the revenue of 3,000*l.* per annum, and with the addition of the Trade Licence Act, which was the last measure of the session, should relieve the local executive from any necessity to press for further taxes as matter of fiscal necessity, whatever modifications of existing arrangements may be deemed desirable, and even if for a time resort to a loan might be convenient for any special purpose.

10. The Militia Act of June 1863, and its sister measure of the Volunteer Corps Act of August, are the laws which for the first time made due provision for the clothing and equipment as well as the enrolment of the corps, and rendered it possible to organize the force of which I have already spoken.

11. The Act to amend the "Public Officers' Security Act, 1862," makes very wise and valuable provision for obtaining the suretyship of solvent guarantee associations in London as security for the performance of their duty and due accounting of public monies by public officers. The importance can hardly be overrated of thus obtaining in these colonies an effective in place of merely nominal security.

12. The Post Office Act establishes the uniform prepayment of postage on all letters posted in this Colony, following out a general arrangement adopted in other colonies at the suggestion of Her Majesty's Government, but in a manner which ensured immediate simplification of the business of our own office, without rendering it necessary to wait for the concurrence of other colonies to obtain the desired benefit.

13. The next Act in order conferred permanently a provision for the perpetual curate of the district and chapelry of St. Paul's, Calliaqua, which theretofore had only been given from time to time to the incumbent by name; and his obtaining it at all depended very much upon his personal popularity. I need not insist upon the advantage of terminating this uncertainty with regard to unecclesiastical endowment.

14. The enactment immediately following was in fact the stamp of completion to a work which, if it constituted the only feature of the year 1863, would distinguish it honourably. I allude to the "Act to repeal certain Acts and provide an authentic Record of the Laws of the Colony." This measure is to give final effect to the publication of the compilation of the laws of St. Vincent, for which a commission was appointed by your Excellency, when in the temporary administration of this Government, in the year 1857. After much delay and many difficulties the work has been accomplished, and the Colony now possesses what it has grievously wanted for many years, a complete and handy edition in one volume of all laws existing at the end of the year 1862.

15. I need not specify the other Acts of the session of 1863; they are all of practical value in the administration of the law and of Government; but I should not pass without notice the Acts of the present session to which I have adverted. The first in order and importance is the "Council Act, 1864," which embodies permanently all that practical experience has shown to be valuable of the system which it was endeavoured to establish by the Executive Council and Administrative Committee inaugurated in 1859. A pendant to this measure, which ratifies the control of the Executive over the financial schemes and motions for money grants in the Assembly, is the "Auditor's Act," which for the first time gives satisfactory power and machinery for the effective examination of the accounts in all departments of the public service. The third of the measures referred to is the Act for registering births and deaths, which I look upon as a measure most necessary to the acquirement of knowledge that may be relied upon with regard to the moral and sanitary condition of the mass of the population, which now is a matter of pure speculation and conjecture. The fourth Act is one embodying important amendments to the Militia and Volunteer Acts of last year, and much assisting their efficient working. The fifth is a measure providing for the carriage of mails by the

ST. VINCENT. French mail steamers, and giving the necessary authority for establishing the issue of Post Office money orders between Great Britain and this Colony, a measure which I am sure will be productive of infinite public convenience and some benefit to trade.

16. I think it will be admitted that for many years there have not been adopted so many and so valuable public measures within the same space of time, and with so little of angry discussion or personal hostility. The fact reflects the greatest credit on the present state of social as well as political feeling in St. Vincent.

Population.

17. The population tables are again filled up according to the returns of the census of 1861. The baptisms appear to be more than double the number of burials, but no reliance can be placed on these figures as showing the ratio of births to deaths. No doubt all baptisms are duly recorded, and perhaps few infants remain long unbaptized; but it is almost certain that many deaths and interments take place without the knowledge of the ministers of Religion. It has long been regarded by me as very important that an effective registration of births and deaths should be established. Some delay has occurred in effecting this object; but at last an Act has recently been passed, which will come into operation on the 1st July next, and after 1864 more information of an authentic character will be obtained than it has been up to this time possible to procure with regard to the sanitary condition of the people, the diseases from which they chiefly suffer, and the true rate of mortality.

Immigrants.

18. The immigrant population are doing well. So far as it has extended, immigration has been successful in St. Vincent, but there has been none in 1863. The coolies previously introduced have, however, notably improved in appearance, and are generally well spoken of as useful labourers. The number in the island at the beginning of the year 1863 was 551, and the rate of mortality only slightly more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for the ensuing twelve months, while births exceeded deaths in number.

19. I do not expect any application during this year for a further supply of imported labour. But if the prices of West India produce keep up to anything near their present rates, and seasons should be favourable, the recultivation of several very fine estates recently abandoned, and now being brought to sale in the Incumbered Estates Court, will probably stimulate competition for labour, and lead early in 1865 to a desire to obtain more immigrants. I hope that when it arises there will be no difficulty in meeting the demand upon the Immigration Fund.

Agriculture, &c.

20. In agriculture, if not in the processes of manufacture of sugar and arrow-root, much improvement has recently been apparent. I do not exaggerate when I say that three years ago there was scarcely an estate in the island where implemental husbandry was used. Now the properties on which ploughs, horse-hoes, and harrows are not at work are the exceptions. Information and experience have been sought in other colonies and introduced with marked success, shown conspicuously in the fact that notwithstanding the suspension of cultivation on some estates, and the exceptionably unfavourable weather of 1863, from which this Colony suffered much, though not to the extent of other neighbouring islands, the exports of sugar in 1863 were above an average, and beyond those of 1862, while produce has been already shipped for the crop of 1864 equal to 5,092 hogsheads of sugar, 626 puncheons of rum, and 650 molasses; the total for the year being expected not to fall below that of 1863.

Exports.

1862.			1863.		
Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.
8,340 hhds.	1,681 puns.	303 puns.	8,555 hhds.	1397 puns.	303 puns.
109 tierces.	292 hhds.	4 hhds.	139 tierces.	292 hhds.	4 hhds.
719 bar.			860 barrels.		

21. The exports of arrowroot, of which the cultivation was stimulated by the high prices prevailing in 1862 and the early part of 1863, also considerably exceeded those of 1862, as will be seen from the following figures :—

1862.	1863.
Arrowroot.	Arrowroot.
3,747 barrels.	4,190 barrels.
1,787 half barrels.	1,382 half barrels.
6,804 tins.	8,364 tins.
	26 casks.

Up to this date equal to 8,900 barrels have been shipped for crop 1864, being the largest export for very many years, and there probably is a large remaining quantity not yet waterborne.

Education.

22. The school returns show a great addition to the number of the Sunday schools. The Wesleyan ministry have established nine which were not maintained previously; one being supported in connexion with the Presbyterian Church, now provided with a minister, and one having been added to the number belonging to the Church of England. One grammar school for the education of boys of the middle and upper classes has also been added with much success, through the exertions of the Rev. H. W. Laborde, the Rural Dean, to the number of those in connexion with the Church of England. The want of some such institution had been very much felt for a considerable period, but it was doubted whether it could be made self-supporting, and other difficulties stood in the way of fairly trying the experiment. At length, however, with the assistance of a grant of 50*l.* from the fund at the disposal of the Board of Education, the services of Mr. Tait, a gentleman reading for Holy Orders, who has shown himself an efficient master, were obtained, and the undertaking has prospered so well that it is now proposed to procure the services of an assistant teacher, and admit a larger number of pupils than could before be taken, many having been declined.

23. The number of other week-day schools is the same as in 1862, but the number of scholars is considerably less. This is attributable, I think, partly to the unsettled state of the country population for some time after the riots of 1862, and partly to the fact that the circumstances of the people were in some degree straitened by the rigid economy in the conduct of plantations, rendered necessary by the low prices of produce, and the drought which has prevailed with more or less severity throughout the last 18 months. Both these causes will soon, I trust, to a great extent cease to operate, and the schools be equally as well attended as in former years.

Gaols and Prisoners.

24. There is little upon which to remark in the Criminal Statistics of 1863; excepting the occurrence of any such turbulence as may be termed an epidemic of lawlessness, like the disturbances of 1862, the population is not prone to serious crime. The number of prisoners in confinement during 1863 is rendered larger than usual by those under conviction for offences committed during the riots, notwithstanding the discharge of several among the lesser offenders, as an act of favour on the celebration of the marriage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in April last year. I have recently, with your Excellency's permission, released on Her Majesty's birthday all the remaining rioters with the exception of seven who were convicted of savage, almost murderous, assaults upon two managers in charge of estates in the Windward district. I think that those convicts to whom the clemency of the Crown has been thus extended are now repentant for their conduct, that all the advantage of the assertion of the law which is likely to be derived from their punishment as an example has been obtained, and that no recurrence is now likely of such offences as those for which they have suffered.

25. The supplementary gaol which it was found necessary to establish in the Ordnance buildings will thus be closed, and the number of prisoners be reduced to very few above the ordinary average.

General Remarks.

26. I think your Excellency will agree with me in regarding this short review of the course of public affairs during the year 1863, and their condition at the present time, as not unsatisfactory. The Colony during the last two years has passed through severe

St. Vincent.

trial in more than one respect, but I think it may be confidently affirmed that its state is now more prosperous and its future prospects brighter than in 1862. Notwithstanding the drought and low prices for produce, exports have maintained more than an average amount, while cultivation has been improved and promises yet augmented production. With the better return now obtained for produce in the English market, and the consumption which it is hoped will be stimulated by the recent reduction of sugar duties, the agriculturist is cheered to renewed effort, while the merchant has his confidence restored with respect to his advances; and if the seasons now resume their genial regularity, usually undisturbed by protracted drought in these southern colonies, I see no reason that we should not expect for Saint Vincent renewed and established prosperity, as great as has ever been enjoyed for very many years.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Governor Walker, C.B., &c. &c.

(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE.

St. Lucia.

ST. LUCIA

No. 11.

No. 11.

Copies of DESPATCHES from Governor Walker, C.B., to the Secretary of State.

(No. 192.)

Windward Island, Barbados, April 23, 1864.

My Lord Duke,

No. 72. April 18, 1864.

I have the honour to forward to your Grace the Blue Book of St. Lucia for 1863, with a Report from the Administrator of the Government on the condition and prospects of the island.

2. The Report is prepared with Mr. Grant's accustomed care and accuracy.

3. It is not a very glowing account, neither can it be viewed as a very discouraging one when reference is had to the state of agricultural affairs generally throughout these colonies.

4. The remarks in connexion with the withdrawal of the troops would leave the impression that the island is in a very defenceless state. But, as bearing on this point, I would mention that Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope, on his recent visit here, informed me that he had made arrangements under which St. Lucia, among other places, should be visited by a ship of war at least once in three months; and there is constant communication both by steam and sailing vessels with Barbados.

I have, &c.

His Grace The Duke of Newcastle, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES WALKER.

Enclosure in No. 11.

(No. 72.)

Government Office, St. Lucia, April 18, 1864.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for 1863, accompanied by the usual abstracts and comparative returns.

Revenue.

2. Owing to the low rates obtained for exported produce during the year and to the high price of manufactured goods, the revenue has fallen short of the estimates by a considerable amount, and is also less than the amount collected in 1862. The estimated revenue for the past year was 13,642*l.*, and the actual revenue only 12,591*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*, the difference being about 1,050*l.* Again, the general revenue of 1862 amounted to 12,900*l.*, being in excess over last year 309*l.*

3. In my report on the Blue Book of 1862 I pointed out that whilst there was a decrease in the importation of manufactured goods, there was a considerable increase in the articles of food which form the staple consumption of the inhabitants of this Colony; but I regret to say that in 1863, whilst there was a further decrease on the first-named articles, there was a decrease in many of the latter class as well, as will be seen from the following figures :—

Cottons, linens, and woollens—	£	s.	d.
Value imported in 1862 - - - -	19,254	3	4
„ 1863 - - -	10,055	14	8
Difference	£9,198	18	8

Which represent 459*l.* in import duty.

British manufactured goods imported in 1862 were	£	s.	d.
valued at - - - - -	32,439	0	0
Ditto, in 1863 - - - - -	19,412	0	0
Deficiency -	£13,027	0	0

	Quantity.	1862.	1863.	Decrease.
Corn and grain - -	Bushels	3,548	2,273	275
Corn, meal - -	Barrels	1,346	935	411
Fish, salted - -	Quintals	8,502	7,367	1,135
Flour, wheat - -	Barrels	8,864	7,226	1,638
				Increase.
Salted meat - -	lbs.	170,121	223,254	53,133
Tobacco, unmanufactured -	lbs.	45,519	77,510	31,191
Wines - - -	Gallons	5,925	6,137	212

Indeed for the last three years the value of imported goods has diminished, but the difference between 1862 and 1863 is much greater than between 1861 and 1862.

Value of Imports.	Year.	Decrease.
£		£
110,063 - -	1861 - -	
93,606 - -	1862 - -	16,457
69,583 - -	1863 - -	24,023

This table shows that the difference in value of imported goods between the years 1861 and 1863 amounts to no less a sum than 40,480*l.*, or more than one-third of the imports of the former year, all this notwithstanding the augumented population in 1862, caused by the introduction of the Coolies by the "Ulysses," and the liberated Africans by that vessel and the "Damietta," in all 511 souls. It is to be hoped that the increased price of produce this year will cause this branch of the revenue to rise again from the very low level which it sunk down to in 1863.

4. But whilst there has been so large a diminution in the import duties, there has been some rise in the revenue derived from the excise duty on rum. It amounted in 1862 to 4,495*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* and in 1863 to 4,675*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*, being an increase of 180*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* This may be in part attributed to the vigilance exercised in the collection of this class of revenue, the officers having discovered infringements of the law for which the parties liable were subjected to pecuniary penalties.

5. A large portion of the decrease in the revenue of 1863 is, however, only apparent, and is caused by the special funds raised for the maintenance of the District Hospitals being transferred from the general revenue to the Immigration Fund. Deducting then the items of medical tax, subsistence money, and the balance of account transferred to the general revenue when the change was effected, it will appear that whilst the general revenue in 1862 amounted to 12,899*l.* 19*s.* $1\frac{3}{4}$*d.*, it only reached in 1863, 12,591*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*, being a decrease of 308*l.* 9*s.* $11\frac{3}{4}$*d.*

6. But in order to arrive at the total revenue of 1863 we must add the taxation imposed for the three special purposes of immigration, repairs of roads and education.

ST. LUCIA.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Immigration.						
Export duty	1,126	4	7			
Medical tax	151	5	0			
Subsistence money	228	7	6			
				1,505	17	1
Roads and Bridges.						
Export duty	605	14	2			
Mileage	65	8	8			
Commutation money	277	5	0			
Fines	53	13	3			
				1,002	1	1
Education.						
Export duty	271	13	3			
Boat licences	87	16	4			
Hawkers' licences	12	10	0			
Fines and penalties	334	15	10			
				706	15	5
				3,214	13	7

This sum added to 12,591*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* will make the total public revenue of this Colony raised from all sources in 1863, 15,806*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* In this statement I have neglected the amount paid by employers of immigrants for head money, which must be taken to be an instalment of the amount paid by Government for the introduction of immigrants into this Colony, and also a sum of money recovered from the sureties of a defaulting sub-collector of revenue, which belonged to the taxation of a previous year.

Export Duties.

7. There has been no change in the rate of this tax, and the duties are collected for the same special objects as before, namely, for immigration, roads and bridges, and education. The articles taxed are sugar, molasses, rum, charcoal, firewood, hides, coffee, cocoa, farine, and logwood, and at the following rates:—

	s.	d.
Sugar	0	4½ per 100 lbs.
Molasses	1	6 per puncheon.
Rum	3	0 „ „
Charcoal	2	0 per barrel.
Firewood	4	0 per cord.
Hides	0	6 each.
Farine	0	1 per pot.
Logwood	8	0 per ton.

The tax on the first three productions, viz., sugar, molasses, and rum, is appropriated to paying the interest on and sinking fund for the redemption of the Imperial loans to St. Lucia for immigration and roads and bridges. On the proportion allotted for the road loan there is always a considerable surplus, which augments the road fund. The taxes amounted last year to 1,731*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, of which 410*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* was carried to the credit of the road fund. The duties on the remaining articles are devoted to educational purposes. In 1863 they amounted to 271*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*

Imports and Exports.

8. The subjoined table exhibits the value of imports and exports during the last five years. I have already alluded to the large reduction in the value of imports.

	Imports.			Exports.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1859	103,973	2	1	101,879	2	4
1860	97,900	1	0	105,947	4	4
1861	110,063	19	8	96,321	8	2
1862	93,606	15	1	87,991	15	0
1863	69,583	0	0	83,711	17	5

Expenditure.

9. The expenditure of the past year is in reality in excess of that for 1862, owing principally to the necessity of augmenting the police force considerably, on account of the withdrawal of the garrison from this station, and there being no protective force raised to replace it in any way.

It does not, however, appear to be so from the return, because items are included in the expenditure of 1862 which have been transferred to the immigration account. Neglecting these, and the sums contributed both in 1862 and 1863 from the general revenue to "immigration," the general expenditure (including the grant in aid of education) was in 1862, 12,896*l.* 5*s.*, and in 1863, 14,034*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*, being an increase of 1,137*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* Besides this, the expenditure under the head of immigration (including the repayment on account of the Imperial loan of 15,000*l.*) was 3,106*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*; for repairs of roads and bridges (including interest on and sinking fund for Imperial loan of 3,000*l.*), 465*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*; and for education (exclusive of the grant of 500*l.* already accounted for), 484*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* This sum, added to the general expenditure, makes the total amount expended on public purposes for 1863, 18,091*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*

Local Revenue.

10. The only revenue of this description is that raised by the corporation of Castries for the service of the town. This amounted last year to 854*l.* 12*s.* 8½*d.*, being about 30*l.* less than in 1862. The principal items of this account are wharfage dues, 321*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*, and house and land tax, 236*l.* 7*s.* 7½*d.* Of this amount 228*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* was spent in the establishment and rent of town hall, 174*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* for the services of police allotted from the Government force, and 359*l.* 0*s.* 8½*d.* for repairs to streets, bridges, wharves, water-works, rent of slaughter-house, and incidental expenses, including 26*l.* for a fête to inaugurate some improvements in the public square of the town. The wharfage and water dues are paid by the shipping, and the tax on houses and lots of land is five per cent. on their annual rental or estimated value.

Public Debt.

11. The debt remains at 18,000*l.*, but a considerable augmentation has been made to the sinking fund formed for its redemption. It consists of two Imperial loans to the Colony under the authority of 11 & 12 Vict., cap. 130., which were contracted, 15,000*l.* for immigration, and 3,000*l.* for the repairs of roads and bridges. The stock in the 3 per cent. reduced annuities, in which the sinking fund for the redemption of these loans is invested, amounted at the close of the year to 3,335*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* The whole amount is redeemable by the 1st July 1880.

Roads and Bridges.

12. The following table exhibits the comparative revenue and expenditure under this head for 1862 and 1863:—

Revenue.

	1862.			1863.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Export duty	607	9	2	605	14	2	—			1	15	0
Commutation money	368	0	0	277	5	0	—			90	15	0
Mileage	55	17	1¼	65	8	8	9	11	6¾	—		
Fines	23	14	2	53	13	3	29	19	1	—		
Recovered from the sureties of J. B. Frederic, late sub-collector	—			181	2	2	181	2	2	—		
	£1,055	0	5¼	1,183	3	3						

Expenditure.

	1862.			1863.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Interest and sinking fund on loan	195	12	0	195	12	0	—			—		
Repairs of roads and bridges and incidental expenses	805	16	3	269	10	7	—			536	5	8
	£1,001	8	3	465	2	7				536	5	8

St. Lucia.

The balance to the credit of this fund on the 31st December 1862 was 913*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, and, owing to the diminished expenditure of last year, it has been increased at the close of it to 1,631*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*

13. But although the money spent upon the roads during 1863 has been less than one-third of the amount expended during the previous year, it must not be supposed that they have been neglected. On the contrary, they are in as good if not better order than they were at the close of 1862. I attribute this partly to the dry weather which prevailed last year, and to the beneficial working of the amended Road Ordinance, which came into operation on the 1st of January 1863. In my Report upon the previous Blue Book I drew attention to the alterations which had been made in the Road Ordinance of 1857, and stated that, up to the time when I wrote (the 11th May 1863), they had shown themselves to be improvements. To that opinion I still adhere, and I believe that the Ordinance will work even better this year. The old system of sending a road defaulter to gaol was most pernicious, and one which could not be worked where the number was large. As the people gradually learn that when they neither work or pay the commutation money, their goods will be levied upon to secure the penalty they incur, they will either do the one thing or the other.

The division of the road labour into two periods is, I think, conducive to more effective repairs of the roads, and lowering the commutation money from 8*s.* to 6*s.*, and receiving it in two instalments, makes it less heavy on the poorer classes who pay. In time, I believe, this commutation will in reality be a road tax, which will enable the roads to be repaired with hired instead of statute labour. There can be no doubt that the former would be preferable, as then the labour could be better applied, and the work would be more efficiently performed. The number of days' labour given last year was 17,508, which, at 1*s.* per day, represents 875*l.* 8*s.* There were no new roads opened last year, but some which had fallen into disuse were put in order.

Public Works and Buildings.

14. No new works were undertaken last year, and only a very small sum, about 23*l.*, spent in repairs of public buildings.

Legislation.

15. Ten Ordinances were passed last year by the Legislative Council, all of which have received Her Majesty's gracious confirmation.

No. 1, 27th January 1863, "An Ordinance for shortening the language used in Ordi-
"nances of the Legislative Council."

This Ordinance consists of a general interpretation clause, and was passed for the purpose of doing away with the necessity for special clauses of this nature in separate Ordinances. Provision is also made in it to obviate the recurrence of formal enacting words in each section.

No. 2, 29th January 1863, "An Ordinance to authorize the Governor in certain cases
"to remit the head money and other charges payable by the employers of Coolie
"immigrants."

Some difficulty having been felt in obtaining re-indentures for Coolie immigrants, whose first term of service under contract had expired, or of transferring them during their contract to another employer, subject to the payment of the Government charges, this Ordinance was passed to give power to the Governor in such cases, in order to secure employment under contract for any Coolies, to waive them in whole or in part, as the particular circumstances attending each case might demand.

No. 3, 20th March 1863, "To increase and re-organize on a more efficient system the
"Police Force of the Government of Saint Lucia."

The withdrawal in part of the military force at this station, and the contemplated removal of the remainder at an early period, rendered a considerable augmentation of the police force necessary. Before the passing of this Ordinance the force consisted of 18 men, who were placed at the disposal of the stipendiary magistrates, so many to each district. The force raised under this Ordinance consists of 49 men; namely, 1 serjeant, 6 corporals, and 42 privates, under the control of a superintendent.

No. 4, 20th March 1863, "An Ordinance for vesting all estates and property occupied
"by or for the Naval Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in
"the Lord High Admiral, or the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High
"Admiral, of the said United Kingdom for the time being."

No. 5, 20th March 1863, "An Ordinance to extend to all steam vessels the provisions
"of the Steam Navigation Ordinance."

The Compagnie Générale Transatlantique having started a French line of steamers from Martinique to Trinidad, touching at St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Grenada, both coming and going, applied to be admitted to use the port of Castries under the same privileges as the Royal West India Mail Steam Packet Company, who were exempted by an Ordinance, passed in 1840, from the payment of tonnage dues and other fees, as also were all vessels importing coal for their use. Under the present Ordinance not only are these privileges conceded to the French steamers, but to any other lines which shall fulfil the conditions of carrying passengers and calling at regular and stated intervals at St. Lucia.

No. 6, 23rd July 1863, "An Ordinance to empower the Governor to remit penalties "in certain cases."

No. 7, 24th July 1863, "For securing to Antoine Louis Possoz the exclusive benefit, "for a limited time, of a certain invention for improvement in the manufacture of sugar."

There being no Patent Laws in this Colony, it is necessary to pass an Ordinance in every case where a person seeks to secure patent rights in any invention.

No. 8, 24th July 1863, "An Ordinance to define who may be liable to become bank-"rupt, and to provide for the punishment of fraudulent bankruptcy."

No. 9, 24th July 1863, "An Ordinance for fixing rates and duties to be raised for the "Public Service of the year 1864."

This Ordinance is similar to those passed annually. An addition is made in the import duties of 1*s.* 3*d.* on every barrel of wheat flour, and 5 per cent. on all import duties collected (except on flour), to meet the increased expenditure to which the Colony is subjected.

No. 10, 30th October 1863, "An Ordinance for the prevention and punishment of the "fraudulent marking of merchandize."

This Ordinance has been passed to assimilate the law in this Colony with that of England.

Religion.

16. By far the greater part of the inhabitants of this Colony are Roman Catholics. The number of Protestants does not exceed 900, and many of the Coolie immigrants are either Mahometans or Hindoos.

Education.

17. The revenue for this service is in excess of the amount raised in 1862 by 227*l.* The expenditure was slightly less, and the balance carried forward amounts to 434*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*

No new schools have been established during 1863, except a small private one in Soufriere; but the results of the existing establishments are satisfactory. The value of the schools supported by the Mico Charity is every day more apparent. Last year they received out of the Education Fund 569*l.*, and spent in addition 1,100*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, making the total expenditure on education for that period 2,072*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* The following table exhibits the number of scholars last year compared with 1862, showing an increase in favour of 1863:—

—	1862.	1863.	Increase.	Decrease.
Mico schools	766	874	108	—
Do. infant schools	213	234	21	—
Roman Catholic do.	458	501	43	—
Nuns boarding do.	62	46	—	16
Mrs. Cooper's do.	17	18	1	—
Mrs. Bernier's do.	—	10	10	—
	1,516	1,683	183	16

An Inspector sent from England by the trustees of the Mico Charity inspected their schools early this year, and gave a very favourable account of their condition and the efficiency of the masters.

Militia.

18. The Militia Ordinance remains in the same position as was reported in my despatch on the Blue Book of 1862. It is not repealed in fact, but it is so in effect. All attempts to raise volunteer corps have failed; and as the military force is now entirely withdrawn,

ST. LUCIA.

there is no protective force, except the police, who are regularly drilled and trained to the use of arms.

Police.

19. The police was increased and re-organized in the early part of last year. The force formerly consisted of only 18 men, who were placed under the charge of the stipendiary magistrates, a few being allotted to each district. There was no attempt at drill or discipline hardly of any sort, and they were, independently of their small number, very inefficient. In April the force was increased to 49, commanded by a superintendent. At the request of the Government, Captain Warren of the 1/14th regiment, in charge of the garrison at this station, was intrusted with their organization. He remained in charge of them until a short time ago, when he was ordered to join his regiment, which was under orders of embarkation to England. During the time he acted as superintendent he taught them the use of arms, and made them an efficient body. There are at present 1 serjeant, 1 lance-serjeant, 5 corporals, 2 lance-corporals, and 36 privates, in all 45 non-commissioned officers and men. The head quarters are the barracks recently occupied by the troops, and a certain number are detached from them to the out-stations. The pay of the serjeant is 5*l.* per month, corporals 4*l.* per month, and privates 2*s.* a day. Besides this a scale of good-conduct pay has been established under the following regulations :—

" Any member of the force whose name for 12 consecutive months does not appear in the Head-quarters Defaulters' Book for drunkenness or for any offence for which other punishment than 'admonished' has been awarded, may submit his claim to a good-conduct badge, carrying with it the extra pay of 2*d.* per day.

" Under the above conditions any member of the force can lodge his claim for verification by the superintendent in the police orderly room at the expiration of each year's good service, to be by him submitted to the Governor.

" Any act of drunkenness or other offence bearing punishment other than 'admonished,' renders the offender liable to be deprived of one or more good-conduct badges, at the discretion of the Governor.

" The granting of a lance stripe carries with it one good-conduct badge, with pay.

" The number of good-conduct badges do not exceed three in number, making the maximum good-conduct pay 6*d.* a day."

The force is composed of six white men, four of whom are soldiers who have taken their discharge, and 39 coloured and black men, of whom six are old soldiers of West Indian regiments, two are Coolies, and the others natives of St. Lucia, Barbados, and other islands. The cost of the police, including the superintendent, who receives 150*l.* salary and 50*l.* horse allowance, last year was 1,459*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* An arrangement has been made with the corporation of Castries by which some of the force are placed daily at their disposal. For this they pay 170*l.* annually into the treasury.

Military.

20. This island is no longer a military station. The company of the 1/14th regiment stationed here embarked for Jamaica in the troop ship " Megæra " on the 1st November last, and the military labourers followed a few months afterwards. The military lands and buildings have been placed under the charge of the Civil Government, and a small portion of barrack furniture and other stores left for the service of the police, who, as has already been stated, are barracked at Morne Fortuné.

The withdrawal of the troops was much deprecated by the inhabitants, and the unofficial members of Council proposed to subsidize a detachment by an annual payment of 3,000*l.* towards its support. This proposition was not, however, favourably received, and the island is at present without any protective force except the police.

Prisoners—Crime.

21. There has been again a large increase in the number of prisoners over the previous year, although not so great as the difference between 1861 and 1862. There were 92 more committals in 1863 than in 1862, the total number being 653. Of these no less than 319 have been imprisoned once before, 123 twice, and 104 three or more times, leaving only 107 as the number of prisoners who have not been in gaol before. Among the cases tried last year was one in which four men and one woman were convicted of the murder of an old man. The capital sentence was not carried out upon any of them,

for the sole evidence was that of a boy whose story was in some parts contradictory. Another man was committed for murder later in the year. The facts were admitted at the trial; but a defence of insanity at the time of committing the deed was set up, and acquiesced in by the jury. During the year there were 199 cases of sickness in gaol, but only one death.

Immigration.

22. No immigrants were introduced into the Colony during last year, but the condition of those already brought here continues satisfactory. Owing to the depressed condition of the agricultural body, it was found impossible to re-indenture all the immigrants by the "Victor Emanuel" and "Zemindar," whose three years' contracts expired in February and April respectively, subject to the Government charges. In anticipation of this difficulty, an Ordinance was passed early in the year to confer authority on the Governor to exercise a discretionary power with regard to the imposition of these charges, as it was obviously to the advantage both of the Colony and the immigrants that they should all be re-indentured; and it was better that the Immigration Fund should be deprived of the small amount which might be waived under the authority of the Ordinance, rather than any should remain "not under contract." Moreover, as Government had agreed with these people, before leaving India, to find them labour under contract for five years, we were, I consider, bound to suffer pecuniary loss rather than not fulfil the engagement. All the "Victor Emanuel" Coolies under contract, 299 in number, were re-indentured, but the Government charges were waived on 25 of them. Similarly the "Zemindar" immigrants, in number 235, were recontracted, but 44 of them free of charge. The exemption is conditional; that is, in the case of those who are inefficient the charges are to be re-imposed if they become efficient; and in the case of the able-bodied labourers who have been re-indentured free, because a contract could not be secured for them otherwise, a stipulation is made, that at the expiration of the first year they may be transferred to any employer who will make better terms with the Government.

The health of the immigrants has improved as they become more and more acclimatized. The deaths last year were only 33, or 2·22 per cent., against 57 the previous year. There has been neither increase nor decrease in births as compared with 1862, the number being 29 in each case.

The results of the hospitals established at Castries, Soufrière, and Vieux Fort are very favourable, as will be seen by the subjoined table:—

—	1862.	1863.	Decrease.
Coolies admitted into the hospitals.	474	340	134
Ditto discharged - -	395	318	77
Ditto died in hospitals -	37	27	10
Africans admitted into the hospitals.	33	10	23
Ditto discharged - -	28	11	17
Ditto died in hospitals -	2	- - -	2

The cost of hospitals and medical attendance was 1,476*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*, against which 379*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* is to be credited, raised from special funds. But it may be remarked that by far the greater part of the medical tax for 1863 is being collected this year.

At the close of 1863 there were 1,304 Coolies and 181 African immigrants in St. Lucia. The wages they earned during the year amounted to about 9,750*l.*, besides which they have houses and grounds where they rear stock and cultivate ground provisions. Some also plant canes, which are ground, and the sugar made at the works of their employer. The rate of wages ranges from 10*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* per diem. Altogether the people are in a prosperous and healthy condition. Any complaints which they may wish to make are always promptly and rigidly investigated; and this improved condition, I think, may be in a great measure attributed to the active supervision exercised over them by the immigration agent, the special magistrates, and medical officers. A marked improvement has taken place in their habits of vagabondage. In 1860 no less than 237 were committed to gaol for absenting themselves from the estates to which they were assigned, without leave, whereas in 1863 only 50 underwent punishment for this offence. It is to be regretted that they do not avail themselves of the facilities offered by Government for the secure preservation of their earnings, as frequent complaints arise of thefts among each other.

ST. LUCIA.

Agriculture.

23. There has been very little difference in the crops of the two past years. The following table exhibits the produce exported during that period:—

—	Sugar.	Molasses.	Rum.	Cocoa.
	lbs.	gals.	gals.	lbs.
1862	8,762,415	104,800	8,275	191,392
1863	8,725,125	111,200	15,299	251,732

The high price of cotton, coupled with, until lately, the low return obtained from sugar, has led many planters to turn their attention to the former article. This cultivation commenced last year, although only a small quantity was exported, 1,650 lbs.; but this year, up to the present time, 10,012 lbs. have been sent to England. As the soil produces a good quality of this article, it is to be hoped that its cultivation will be profitable to many who for some years have suffered severely from the low price of sugar. Last year also was one of unusual drought, which it is feared will affect the present crop very much.

Population.

24. The population of this island is returned at the close of 1863 as 28,135, namely, 13,962 males and 14,173 females. Of these there are 925 whites.

Miscellaneous.

25. The past year has been one of great depression, but it has not led to the abandonment of cultivation witnessed in other colonies. The planters have held on, looking for better times, and it is to be hoped that the more cheering prospect which this year presents will be durable, at least for a time. Trade has also been very dull, as is evidenced by the enormous decrease in the imports. Should the price of manufactured goods fall, an improvement must take place; but whether or not, I do not think that the returns for the present year will be so bad as those for the period which this report embraces.

I have, &c.

His Excellency James Walker, Esq., C.B.,
Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. M. GRANT,
Administrator of the Government.

(No. 206.)

Windward Islands, Barbados,
July 5, 1864.

SIR,

REFERRING to that part of the Administrator's report on the St. Lucia Blue Book in which mention is made of the visit to the Island Mico Schools of an Inspector who
April 30, 1864. had spoken favourably of their condition, I beg permission to enclose a letter which Mr. Grant has only within these few days received from the gentleman in question, and which it may not be too late, if you should deem it worth while, to attach to the Blue Book Report.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAS. WALKER.

2, Park View, Holt Street, Wrexham,
April 30, 1864.

SIR,

I MUST apologize for not sending you the accompanying statistics by the last mail, but my time has been so completely occupied that I had not the opportunity to make the necessary calculations.

The figures, to a great extent, speak for themselves. Although the schools are somewhat old-fashioned in their organization and the teachers are but partially trained, still diligence and faithfulness have accomplished much.

The schools at Soufrière, Castries, and Gros Islet are particularly good.

If the monotonous reading were improved, the Mico Schools in St. Lucia would bear very favourable comparison with many of our country schools in England, notwithstanding the *patois*, and the fact that the parents generally can appreciate education but slightly.

I am sure I have every reason to thank you, on behalf of the trustees, for the kind interest you take in the schools, and your effort to aid them, and sincerely trust that they may accomplish still some good in time to come.

I have, &c.

His Honour J. M. Grant, Esq.,
Administrator of the Government of St. Lucia.

(Signed) G. B. DAVIS.

Sub-Enclosure.

STATISTICAL TABLE, showing the present Condition of the Mico Schools in St. Lucia.

NAME OF SCHOOL.	No. of Children.					Per-centage of those present at Examination, learning															Per-centage of	
						Reading.				Writing.		Arithmetic.									Errors in Dictation.	Sums worked accurately.
	For whom Accommodation is provided.	Now on the Books.	In average Attendance through past Year.	Present ordinary Attendance.	Present at Examination.	Letters and Monosyllables.	Easy Narratives.	More difficult Narratives.	Books of general Information.	In Copy Books.	From Dictation.	Figures and Counting.	Addition.	Subtraction.	Multiplication.	Division.	Compound Rules.	Proportion and Practice.	Fractions and higher Rules.		
Castries Juvenile - -	100	134	81	75	68	17·6	50·	17·6	14·5	100·	33·4	17·6	19·1	—	20·5	—	17·6	14·5	—	5·7	47·5
„ Infants - -	100	137	70	70	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anse Lazaye - -	60	46	30	40	51	50·	28·	16·	8·	36·	40·	50·	12·	—	16·	—	16·	8·	—	4·7	38·9
Soufrière Juvenile - -	80	145	81	85	116	17·2	30·1	15·5	36·2	87·9	51·7	17·2	15·5	—	14·6	15·5	15·5	—	20·7	2·9	73·7
„ Infants - -	60	105	72	85	92	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Choiseuil - - -	60	105	60	65	65	36·9	27·6	30·7	4·6	67·6	20·	36·9	27·6	—	15·3	—	15·3	4·6	—	6·4	31·6
Rivière Dorée - -	70	118	55	60	92	55·4	30·4	6·5	7·6	29·3	47·9	—	15·2	—	15·2	—	6·5	7·6	—	14·8	55·7
Laborie - - -	100	127	70	74	92	55·4	13·	11·9	19·5	33·7	19·5	36·9	30·	—	11·9	—	10·8	8·6	—	20·4	64·5
Vieux Fort - - -	80	120	64	82	106	53·8	22·6	12·2	11·3	38·7	33·6	74·5	—	5·6	3·8	5·6	5·6	4·7	—	7·4	35·
Micoud - - -	80	31	22	25	29	37·9	27·5	17·2	17·2	51·6	17·2	48·2	—	—	6·9	—	13·8	4·4	—	5·2	53·1
Gros Islet - - -	90	68	44	50	55	54·5	16·3	20·	9·	60·	45·4	32·6	12·7	10·9	10·9	1·8	18·1	10·9	1·8	6·7	71·2
Total numbers and average per-centage - -	880	1136	649	711	841	42·1	27·3	16·4	14·2	56·1	32·2	40·2	12·9	3·5	11·1	4·2	13·3	7·	2·5	6·2	52·3

ANTIGUA.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 97.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
June 25, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Colony for the year ended the 31st December 1863.

2. These statistical returns have been prepared by the Colonial Secretary with his usual care, and Mr. Baynes' report thereon is so full and comprehensive as to leave me no room for further remarks, excepting to express my regret that in consequence of the indisposition of the Colonial Secretary the Blue Book could not be forwarded at an earlier period.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 12.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Antigua,
June 11, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour, in obedience to your Excellency's commands, to submit a report on the tables comprising the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1863.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

The revenue of the Colony is derived from the following sources, viz.:—

1. A tax of $\frac{1}{8}d.$ per acre of land and a tax of $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per 100 gallons of molasses and $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per 100 gallons on rum manufactured in the island. These taxes are raised under the authority of an Act passed in 1799, called the "Record Act," the object of which is stated in the preamble to be for the "keeping and preservation of a public record of the "number of acres of land in the island, and the islands adjacent and thereto belonging, "and the quantity of sugar, rum, and molasses annually produced therefrom, as well "for the advantage which the public in general may derive therefrom as for the "satisfaction and benefit which may thereby eventually accrue to absent proprietors, "minors, and other persons holding plantations therein."

2. A duty upon articles imported into this Colony.
3. A duty upon the tonnage of vessels entering into and clearing from this island.
4. A tax upon carriages let for hire.
5. A duty upon licences to carry fire-arms.
6. A duty on licences to sell liquors, &c.
7. Fees of office.
8. A duty upon boat porters' and jobbers' licences.
9. Market tolls.
10. Fines, penalties, and forfeitures.

2. In addition to the foregoing, the following special funds are raised for the support of the Established Church, for the introduction of immigrants, and for the maintenance of the Militia Cavalry Corps, viz.:—

Church Establishment assessments made by the vestries of the several parishes and collected by the Treasurer of the Colony. The assessments for 1863 were as follows:—

Saint John—$1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon the rental of houses, and $9d.$ per acre on land.

Saint George—$2s.$ per acre on uncultivated, $1s.$ per acre on cultivated land, and $2s.$ on every village lot.

Saint Mary—A tax of $6d.$ per acre on land, and from $1s.$ to $2s.$ on each village lot.

Saint Peter—$1s.$ $5d.$ per acre on land.

Saint Philip—$1s.$ per acre on land, and on each village lot from $1s.$ to $6s.$

Saint Paul—$1s.$ $1d.$ per acre on cultivated, and $6d.$ per acre on uncultivated land, and from $1s.$ to $6s.$ on each village lot.

Militia Tax.

An export duty of 3*s.* 4*d.* on each hogshead of sugar.

Immigration Tax.

A duty of 4*s.* 6*d.* per gallon on all rum consumed in the island, and a tax of 4*s.* 6*d.* on each hogshead of sugar exported from the island.

3. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The returns prepared by the treasurer for the Blue Book show the revenue for the year 1863 to have been 38,058*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* and the expenditure 35,474*l.* 11*s.* These accounts however do not in all cases exhibit the total receipts, or the total disbursements, but merely represent the state of balances on each separate account at the close of the year. Thus the parish taxes are returned as producing in the aggregate but 123*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*, whereas the total amount collected and paid into the treasury was 2,204*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*, and the entire cost of the Church establishment is set down at 2,203*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*, whilst the actual amount expended for that service was 4,283*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*

4. The following return, which has been prepared from the financial statement submitted to the Legislature by the Administrative Committee, presents the actual financial transactions of the Colony for the year 1863.

5. It is satisfactory to report that notwithstanding the abolition of the excise duty on rum, levied for the purposes of the general revenue, the expiration of the house and horse taxes, and the reduction to a considerable extent of the duties upon imports, that the revenue was not only sufficient to meet all the expenses, but also produced a balance of 5,998*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* available for the service of the ensuing year.

Revenue, 1863.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Balance from last year	2,710	11	11
Import duty	25,641	17	7
Export duty (militia)	2,266	5	6
Tonnage and powder duties	1,838	5	6
Parish taxes, arrears of 1862 — 748 2 8			
„ on account of 1863 — 1,455 17 9			
	2,204	0	5
Record tax, arrears of 1862 — 17 0 8			
„ on account of 1863 — 375 16 9			
	392	17	5
Carriage, horse, and house tax, arrears of 1862	121	3	4
Fees of office	556	0	10
Liquor licences	1,437	0	0
Licences to let carriages	118	2	0
„ carry fire-arms	28	0	0
„ boats, porters, &c.	57	0	0
Dog tax	33	12	0
Post office	242	9	10
Fines, penalties, and forfeitures	992	11	2
Market tolls	253	3	7
Deposits from savings bank	1,106	7	9
Miscellaneous receipts	63	10	9
	40,062	19	7
Arrears of revenue outstanding on 31st December 1863:—			
Record tax, 1862 — 100*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*			
„ 1863 — 154*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*			
— 255 11 1			
Carriage, horse, and house tax, 1862 — 783 6 7			
Parish taxes, 1862 — 353 1 0			
„ 1863 — 2,022 6 8			
	3,414	5	4
	£43,477	4	11

Expenditure, 1863.

				£	s.	d.
Judicial establishment				3,140	3	2
Civil „	£2,555	4	3			
Administrative committee	339	9	11			
Treasury department	1,833	19	8			
				4,728	13	10
Ecclesiastical establishment				4,283	12	2
Police				4,733	10	3½
Pensions				571	19	8
Post office				141	5	9
Printing				266	15	0
Registration of births and deaths				222	15	6
Military expenses				2,276	14	0
Fire brigade				502	12	0
General poorhouse	£2,500	0	0			
Holberton hospital	1,237	7	9			
Lunatic asylum	1,088	17	7			
Medical relief	837	10	0			
Vaccination	184	4	0			
				5,847	19	4
Board of health				1,699	0	0
Education				1,000	0	0
Cleaning ponds				161	5	0
Gaol and prisoners				1,687	3	10
Highways				2120	2	7
Repayment of loan and interest :—						
Earthquake loan	£1,711	6	6			
Local loan	396	4	4			
				2,107	10	10
Public buildings				135	5	6
Public library				147	4	5
Legislative grants				365	0	0
Lighthouse				32	7	8
Stamp account				47	15	7
Market				490	13	3
Drawback				486	2	7
Miscellaneous				283	2	6
				37,478	14	6
Surplus available for service of 1864				5,998	10	5
				£ 43,477	4	11

Immigration Fund.

				£	s.	d.
By amount in hand, Coutts and Co.,				5,489	10	10½
By amount of Island Fund in Colonial Bank	£1,637	14	0			
Ditto in Treasury	247	3	6			
				1,884	17	6
				£7,3748		4½

Public Debt.

				£	s.	d.
To amount of Earthquake loan at 3¼ per cent.				20,000	0	0
To amount due Savings Bank at 6 per cent.				6,657	15	10
To amount of notes in circulation				2,000	0	0
To Market debentures at 5½ per cent.				2,000	13	10
To Police Reward Fund				108	12	2½
				30,767	1	10½
Cr. By amount due by private borrowers of Earthquake loan				7,543	2	6
				£23,223	19	4½

Legislation.

6. Twenty-five Acts have been passed during the year.

The laws relating to offences against the person, larceny, malicious injuries to property, together with other Acts relating to criminal offences, have been consolidated and assimilated to the Statute Law of England. An Act has been passed repealing the salaries of the members of the Administrative Committee.

The Act imposing import duties has been amended, and the former rates of duties considerably reduced. This Act also abolished the duties hitherto levied upon steam ploughs and other machinery, and upon manures imported for the use of sugar plantations.

An improvement has also been effected in the collection of the tonnage duty by enabling vessels to pay a package duty upon the cargo landed or exported instead of upon the registered tonnage of the vessel.

The Road, Trespass, Health, and Police Acts have been amended and consolidated.

Acts have been passed for the better management and discipline of the lunatic asylum and the gaol.

The Post Office money order system has been established between this Colony and Great Britain and Ireland.

The Acts for providing medical attendance for the infant children of the labouring population and for the poor and destitute, and to render such medical attendance accessible to the labouring population at large, have been amended and consolidated.

Two Acts for securing patents have been passed, one in respect of an invention for discharging liquids from kettles or other vessels, the other in respect of an invention for converting certain grasses, megass, and other vegetable fibrous substances into "pulp" and "half-stuff" for the manufacture of paper.

Political Franchise.

7. The House of Assembly consists of 27 members. The qualifications for members and voters which are fixed by an Act passed in 1842 are as under:—

Members.

An annual income of 66*l.* derived from real property within the island; or,
An annual income of 200*l.* derived from profession, trade, business, &c.

Voters for the City and Towns.

Possession of land either in fee-simple or as a tenant for a period of not less than six months previous to election, and of the yearly value of 26*l.*

Voters for the Country Divisions.

Possession of 10 acres of land in fee-simple, or of five acres with building thereon, or land of the value of 111*l.*, or one acre of land and building of value of 222*l.*, or tenant paying not less than 88*l.* per annum.

8. The island is divided into 14 electoral districts. Of the 522 voters registered for the whole island, 319 are registered for the city of St. John, and the towns of English Harbour, Falmouth, and Parham, returning together six members, and the remaining 203 are registered for 11 country districts, returning 21 members. The number of members and of registered voters for each of the 14 electoral districts is adjoined.

	Members.	Registered Voters.
City of St. John - - - -	4	266
Towns of English Harbour and Falmouth	1	18
Town of Parham - - - -	1	35
City and Towns - - -	6	319
Division of St. John - - -	2	37
„ Dickenson's Bay - - -	2	3
„ Popeshead - - - -	2	4
„ Five Islands - - -	1	4
„ Old Road - - - -	2	50
„ Old North Sound - - -	2	8
„ New North Sound - - -	2	6
„ Nonsuch - - - -	2	15
„ Belfast - - - -	2	12
„ Willoughby Bay - - -	2	15
„ Falmouth and Rendezvous Bay -	2	49

ANTIGUA.

Population, Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

9. It appears by the Report of the Registrar-General, which is herewith appended, 1st. That the native population of the Colony has decreased by 1,068 since the taking of the last census, or at the rate of nearly 1 per cent. per annum. 2nd. That the death-rate for 1862 being 1 to every 22·42 persons living, and that for 1863 1 to every 23·53,* are considerably in excess of those of former years. 3rd. That the deaths in 1863 exceeded the births by 327. 4th. That during the course of the last five years the deaths have exceeded the births by 1,009. 5th. And that a great and unaccountable mortality exists among the infant children of the labourers; the deaths among children of one year and under having reached the alarming proportion of 40 per cent. upon the total births for the year. With regard to the births, it is remarked that the birth-rate for the island being 3·87 inclusive, and 3·35 exclusive, of the still-born, is a very favourable one, but that of 1,407 registered births, 187 or 1 to every 7·5 were still-born. It is also noticed that 59 per cent. of the children born were illegitimate, and that a considerable falling off in the number of marriages has taken place within the last five years.

10. The number of births, deaths, and marriages for the last five years stands thus:—

Births.

1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	Total for the 5 years.
1,346	1,298	1,328	1,072	1,407	6,451
Deaths.					
1,241	1,344	1,403	1,738	1,734	7,460
Marriages.					
263	185	197	150	163	958

11. The following will show the number of marriages solemnized for each of the years from 1840 to 1844:—

1840.	1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.	Total for the 5 years.
554	523	458	484	377	2,396

12. The increased death-rate for the years 1862 and 1863 may to some extent be attributed to mortality from small-pox, that disease having broken out in the Colony in the latter part of 1862, and continued in an epidemic form throughout the whole of 1863. Owing, however, to a general vaccination of the people having been promptly and energetically effected by the medical profession, under the authority of the Government, the severity of the disease was considerably mitigated, and the number of deaths were few, not being more than 202, or about * 3 per cent. of the total number attacked. The disease left no estate or negro village unvisited, and ran through nearly the whole of the black population, attacking whole families at a time.

* Sic in orig.

13. In addition to this visitation the Colony suffered during the year from one of the severest droughts on record, affecting agricultural operations generally to a serious extent, and almost entirely destroying the crop of ground provisions. The labourer was in consequence of these disastrous circumstances brought to a state of great misery and distress. There was perhaps no population in the West Indies placed in as unfortunate a situation from these joint visitations as that of Antigua. Upwards of one-half of the labouring population live in what are called "free villages." In these villages, 80 in number, most of which were established immediately after the emancipation, some neat and well-ordered cottages, belonging to tradesmen, small shopkeepers, and head workmen, are to be seen, but in the majority of instances, especially in the villages at a distance from St. John, the plot of land purchased rarely exceeds 40 square feet in extent, and on a portion of this a wretched hovel is erected, often containing but one room, and that unfloored and imperfectly ventilated, and in which not unfrequently five or six persons, adults and children of both sexes, sleep together at night. These evils are considerably aggravated by the great scarcity of water, the villages being solely dependent for a supply on the ponds in the neighbourhood, the water from which in a dry season is generally muddy, foul, and stagnant. The position of the labourer located on the sugar estates is somewhat preferable, both in regard to his dwelling and to his habits generally,

* Inclusive of still births the death-rate for 1862 was 1 to every 20·95, and in 1863 1 to every 21 living persons.

to that of the villager, and as most of the estates are supplied with cisterns, the privations arising from the want of good water are not as severe on the estates as in the villages.

14. The subject of ameliorating the condition of the people and of checking the extraordinary high rate of mortality, which in respect of the British West Indies seem to be peculiar to Antigua, has engrossed the serious attention of the Government, and many useful measures have of late years been passed with these objects. In the year 1860 an Act was passed for affording medical relief to the labourers. Under the provisions of this Act the children of labourers under 10 years of age and labourers over 60 are supplied with medical aid and medicine free of charge, and the able-bodied labourer at an almost nominal rate. In the same year the sum of 3,250*l.* was expended in cleaning the ponds of the island, in order to afford, as far as was practicable, a supply of water accessible to all persons. The large sum of 7,456*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* is annually expended in the support of poorhouses, hospitals, board of health, and for the purposes of medical relief, vaccination, &c.

15. Nor has the Government been less regardful of the Spiritual wants of the people, provision being made for the maintenance of six rectors and seven curates of the Established Church, besides which grants are occasionally made for the support of the other religious denominations.

16. Notwithstanding these endeavours on the part of those in authority to raise the moral and sanitary condition of the people, the annual returns exhibit the unaccountable but undeniable fact that instead of an improvement there has been a positive retrogression in both these particulars. The labourer seems insensible of the advantages which would accrue to himself and family from free ventilation, cleanliness, and an adequate supply of pure water, and would not willingly contribute his labour or his money for either of such purposes. It has been found impossible to induce those residing in the villages to give even a couple of days' work in cleaning the ponds in the immediate vicinity of their dwellings, hence the ponds have either to be cleaned at the expense of the general revenue, or from the want of cleaning get filled and become useless.

17. Experience has fully shown that some legislation is absolutely necessary for protecting the labourer against the effects of his apathy and indifference to all matters relating to his sanitary condition; such interposition seems to be now imperatively called for. The negro villages might with advantage be placed under the immediate superintendence of the Board of Health, and subjected to periodical visits from the police, so as to ensure the enforcement of the sanitary regulations of the Board. The villages might also be supplied with pure and wholesome water, sufficient for all purposes, by exacting from each male resident a given number of days' work in each year for the building and keeping in order of reservoirs, and for the making and keeping up of ponds, &c., for the use of his village.

18. Improvements such as the foregoing, together with the establishment of central dispensaries, as suggested by his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, would at least mitigate, if not entirely remove, the causes inducing the melancholy results shown in the annual returns of the Registrar General.

Immigration.

19. Bounty on the introduction in 1863 of 937 immigrants from Barbados and 259 from Madeira, amounting together to 1,745*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, was paid from the immigration fund.

20. One hundred and fifteen Chinese have also been added to the labouring population: the original destination of these immigrants was Cuba, but the French vessel the "Perseverance," in which they had embarked from Macoa, having been totally wrecked on the coast of Barbuda in the month of May last, the crew and passengers were brought over to St. John's, and the latter determined on settling in this Colony. The circumstances attending the refusal of these immigrants to proceed in the vessel chartered by the master of the "Perseverance" for their conveyance to Cuba, and their location on some of the sugar estates as agricultural labourers, have already been fully reported to Her Majesty's Government.

21. The funds available for immigration purposes at the close of the year amounted to 7,374*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*

ANTIGUA.

Education.

22. A small increase is observable in the attendance at the schools receiving Government aid as compared with the previous year. The following are summaries of the attendances in each year.

1862.

Denomination.	No. of Schools.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Church of England -	21	960	839	1,799
United Brethren - -	17	984	882	1,866
Wesleyan - -	8	339	310	649
Private - - -	1	30	37	67
	47	2,313	2,068	4,381

1863.

Denomination.	No. of Schools.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Church of England -	23	1,028	842	1,870
United Brethren - -	18	1,004	838	1,842
Wesleyans - -	8	318	307	625
Private - - -	1	30	41	71
	50	2,380	2,028	4,408

Increase, 27 scholars.

23. It is stated that most of these schools are much in want of school furniture, apparatus, and books. With regard to the teachers and monitors, the Commissioners of Education report "that the trained teachers are 32 in number, and of these 18 are "engaged in the Moravian schools. While it is but just to state that there are some "well-conducted schools kept by teachers whose sole training is the fruit of their own "experience, it is undoubtedly true that in general the trained teachers are more "successful in their schools. Much of the class work in these schools is carried on by "monitors, whose services, sometimes unwillingly permitted by their parents, cannot be "depended upon, and unless more effective aid can be obtained the standard of "efficiency cannot be greatly raised. To secure the regular attendance of intelligent "youths, qualified to act as monitors, would require an outlay, though comparatively "small, yet too great for the income of most schools to bear, and the Commissioners "can afford no aid, as the present ordinary expenditure requires a cautious distribution "of the funds at their disposal."

The educational grant for 1863 was appropriated thus:—

	£	£
Inspector of schools - - - -		200
Church of England schools - - - -	332	
Moravian schools - - - - -	322	
Wesleyan schools - - - - -	146	
	——	800
Total - - -	£	1,000

These amounts were distributed among the schools on the list of the Commissioners in the following manner, viz.,—a capitation allowance of 2*s.* per annum on account of each child in average attendance, and a further grant, to the extent of one-third of the entire cost of the school, towards defraying the expenses of such school in respect of salary, books, and apparatus.

24. Public schools not receiving aid from the Commissioners of Education:—

In connexion with Moravian Church, one day school attended by 40 scholars, and two training institutions, one for male and one for female teachers.

25. The Mico schools consist of,—

An institution for training teachers.

A juvenile school attended by 89 scholars.

An infant school attended by 81 scholars.

Twenty-five young men were instructed during the year at the training institution, five of them belonged to the Established Church, eight to the Moravians, ten to the Wesleyans, and two to the Independents; seven left the institution to become teachers in this and the neighbouring colonies, viz., one in Antigua, three in Saint Vincent's, two in Demerara, and one in Saint Kitt's. The total expenditure of the institution during the last year was 1,212*l.* 5*s.*

Sunday Schools.

There has been no material difference in the attendance at these schools: in 1862 the number attending was 5,065; in 1863, 5,106.

Private Schools.

26. The Inspector reports that the private schools in the city not under the superintendence of the Commissioners are very numerous, "not many streets being without one, "of some kind or other."

27. The principal private school is the Antigua Classical School, established by the Lord Bishop in the year 1861. This school receives no aid or assistance of any kind from the public revenue. It is conducted by the Rev. Wm. E. Paige, B.A., and is attended by 25 boys, paying 12*l.* per annum each.

Ecclesiastical Return.

28. Return of Churches, Chapels, &c.

Denomination.	Churches and Chapels.	Clergy.	No. of Members.	No. generally attending.	Attendance per Cent. on total Population.	Remarks.
Church of England	14	16	16,300	3,500	9·42	Population, including Barbuda, 37,125. Church of England: the Lord Bishop, Archdeacon, and Rector of St. John's, 5 rectors, 1 curate, All Saints, 6 curates paid by Colony, 1 gaol chaplain, 1 minister residing at Barbuda.
Moravian - -	13	10	12,000	7,000	18·85	The Moravian Minister residing at Nonsuch receives an annual stipend of 133*l.* from the treasury.
Wesleyan - -	10	4	7,300	5,300	14·28	
Roman Catholic -	1	1	900	No Return.		Service performed in a hired building.
Presbyterian -	1	1	250	120	0·32	
Not described -	- -	- -	375			

Imports, Exports, and Shipping.

29. The total value of articles imported into this Colony during the year 1863 is returned at 173,912*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*, showing a decrease as compared with the previous year of 12,440*l.* 16*s.* 5½*d.*, and it is to be observed that the value of imports for 1862 was fully 20 per cent. lower than the annual average value of such imports for the last six years.

30. On examining the tables of imports furnished by the treasury, I find that they have of late years been so prepared as to give the quantity and value of such articles only as are chargeable with duty. In the tables comprised in the present Blue Book no mention is made of the importation in 1863 of two steam ploughs, admitted free of duty; and if these returns were to be received as containing correct statistical information, it would appear that no manure or other fertilizer of the soil, agricultural implements, or machinery were introduced into Antigua in 1863. The insertion in the Blue Book of a complete list of all articles imported, with their value, whether such articles are charged with duty or admitted duty free, is certainly necessary in order to afford anything like correct information as to the trade statistics of the island. Nor can much dependence be placed on the value fixed on articles not paying an ad valorem duty on importation. More than one-half of the apparent decrease of 12,440*l.* in the value of imports for 1863 arises from the diminished value placed upon one commodity, namely pork; this article was valued in 1862 at 4*l.* per barrel, and in 1863 at 2*l.* per barrel, and with an importation of only 140 barrels short of the preceding year the decrease in the value is set down at 6,708*l.*; and again, 156 mules imported in 1863 are valued at 680*l.* less than 119 imported in 1862.

ANTIGUA.

31. The comparative value of imports for the years 1862 and 1863 is shown below:—

—	1862.	1863.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom - -	73,871 16 0	69,946 2 7¼	—	3,925 13 4¾
Barbados and other British West Indies.	45,039 17 9	33,688 6 7½	—	11,351 11 1½
British North America -	14,252 12 3	11,803 10 4	—	2,449 1 11
United States - -	40,235 9 1½	51,071 12 5¾	10,836 3 4¼	—
Other Foreign Countries -	12,953 5 8	7,402 12 3½	—	5,550 13 4½
	186,353 0 9½	173,912 4 4	10,836 3 4¼	23,276 19 9¾
Decrease - - - -				12,440 16 5½

32. Direct importations of fish, flour, pork, &c., have to some extent been resumed from the United States; the returns show an increase of imports from that country to the value of 10,836*l.*, and a nearly corresponding decrease in the importation from Barbados and the other British West Indies.

33. The quantity of sugar, rum, and molasses exported in the years 1862 and 1863 is as follows:—

Sugar.

—	Hogsheads.	Tons.	Barrels.	Equal in Hogsheads.
1862 - - - -	13,606	1,767	8,022	15,774
Less produce of other countries	492	397	548	814
Island Crop - - -	13,114	1,370	7,474	14,961
1863.				
Island Crop - - -	11,929	1,340	6,124	13,588
Decrease in 1863 - -	1,185	30	1,350	1,373

Rum.

—	Puncheons.	Hogsheads.	Barrels.	Equal in Puncheons.
1862 -	935	117	14	997
1863 -	879	121	0	939
Decrease in 1863 - - - -				58

Molasses.

—	Puncheons.	Hogsheads.	Barrels.	Equal in Puncheons.
1862 -	6,386	8	52	6,403
1863 -	5,968	29	142	6,018
Decrease in 1863 - - - -				385

Shipping.

The number of vessels entered and cleared for the years 1862 and 1863 stands thus:—

	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No. of Vessels.	Tons.	No. of Vessels.	Tons.
1862 - -	540	37,110	540	29,705
1863 - -	437	26,253	459	28,341
Decrease in 1863	103	10,857	81	1,364

Administration of Justice.

34. A comparative table of the business transacted in the Civil and Criminal Courts during 1862 and 1863 is given.

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Business transacted in the Civil Courts in the years 1862 and 1863.

	Court of Appeal for the Leeward Islands.		Chancery.			Ordinary.	Vice-Admiralty.		Common Pleas.				Complaints.			Insolvent Court.			
	Causes.	Sittings.	Bills filed.	No. of Days Vice-Chancellor sat in Court. Court.	No. of Days Vice-Chancellor sat in Court. At Chambers.	No. of Days Chief Justice sat for transaction of business.	Suits instituted.	No. of Days on which the Court sat.	No. of Sittings in Court.	Actions entered.	Jury Trials.	Judgment by Default, Confessions, Discontinuances, &c.	No. of Sittings.	Complaints entered.	Judgments.	No. of Sittings.	No. of Petitions presented.	Remanded.	Discharged.
1862	1	7	1	8	—	6	1	56	86	179	36	95	17	1726	555	12	7	5	7
1863	—	4	4	13	2	32	Nil.	Nil.	43	109	47	64	18	1564	430	11	6	6	5

Year.	Convictions in the Queen's Bench.			
	No. of Sittings.	Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Offences against Public Justice.
1861 - -	20	14	20	—
1862 - -	36	15	24	1
1863 - -	31	16	39	—

35. The total commitments for the last three years have been:—

	Queen's Bench.	Police Magistrate.	Total.
1861 - -	34	322	356
1862 - -	40	403	443
1863 - -	55	540	595

And the number of summary convictions before the Police Magistrate:—

1861 - - - -	2,148
1862 - - - -	2,638
1863 - - - -	2,758

The amount of fines paid into the treasury:—

	£	s.	d.
1861 - - - -	642	17	10
1862 - - - -	885	14	10
1863 - - - -	992	11	2

The greatest number of prisoners in confinement at one time:—

1861 - - - -	80
1862 - - - -	72
1863 - - - -	128

36. *Charitable Institutions.*

The charitable institutions of the Colony are:—

1. The Holberton Hospital (formerly known as the Daily Meal Society), established by Archdeacon Holberton. The sum of 1,000*l.* per annum is granted by Act No. 1,083 for the maintenance of the institution. It is placed under the direction of a Board of nine members appointed by the Governor. The officers and attendants of the hospital are:—

The Surgeon, at a salary of	100*l.*	per annum.	
The Warden	„	150*l.*	„
The Dispenser	„	18*l.*	„
The Matron	„	25*l.*	„
Two Nurses, each	„	19*l.* 4*s.*	„

No. of inmates on 31st December 1863 -	72
Out-door patients - - - -	14

ANTIGUA.

2. The general poorhouse and Lazaretto, under the direction of a Board of Guardians appointed by the Governor. The annual average cost of this establishment is 2,700*l.* The officers of the poorhouse and Lazaretto are:—

The Surgeon, at a salary of		120*l.*
The Keeper	„	120*l.*
The Matron	„	60*l.*

No. of inmates on 31st December 1863:—

Poorhouse - - - -	149
Lazaretto - - - -	22

Receiving out-door relief, 165.

3. The Lunatic Asylum is under the care of a Board of Directors nominated by the Governor. The officers of the asylum are:—

The Surgeon, at a salary of		100*l.*
The Keeper	„	100*l.*
The Matron	„	36*l.*
Superintendent of lunatics		24*l.*
Assistant ditto		19*l.* 4*s.*
Two Nurses, each		19*l.* 4*s.*

The number of inmates in this asylum on the 31st December was 43.

His Excellency
Colonel Stephen John Hill, C.B.,
Commander-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN D. BAYNES,
Colonial Secretary.

June 24, 1864.

P.S.—I annex two reports, one on the Lunatic Asylum, and the other on the Holberton Hospital, prepared by the Lord Bishop, the Chairman of the Board of Poor Law Guardians and of the Directors of the Lunatic Asylum, which have this moment been received. E. D. B.

Sub-Enclosure 1.

REPORT of the REGISTRAR-GENERAL of BIRTHS and DEATHS for 1863.

SIR, Colonial Secretary's Office, Antigua, February 9, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the returns of the Registrar-General for the year 1863. I also append tables of the annual number of births and deaths for the last seven years, and of other statistical information bearing upon the returns now under consideration.

2. The total number of births registered in 1863 is 1,407 against 1,072 in the previous year. Excluding the still-born, the registered births for 1862 and 1863 would respectively be 958 and 1,220, showing an increase of 27·35 per cent. Of the births in 1863, 40·9 per cent. are returned as legitimate, and 59·1 as illegitimate.* The still-born are returned at 187, or 13·29 per cent. of the total births. In 1862 the number was returned at 114, or 10·64 per cent. of the births. The birth-rate for the year is 3·35 per cent., or one birth to every 29·84 of the population.†

3. There has been a slight decrease in the number of deaths as compared with 1862, 1,734 deaths having been registered in 1863, against 1,738 in the preceding year. Excluding the still-born (which in this Colony are registered as deaths), the returns for the two years would be 1,624 and 1,547, showing a decrease of mortality in 1863 of 4·74 per cent. The annual mortality for these two years has, however, been 38 and 31 per cent. higher than the average mortality for the years from 1857 to 1861, and the deaths in the past year have exceeded the deaths in 1859 by 40 per cent.†

4. The death-rate for 1863 is 4·24† per cent., or one death to every 23·53 of the population.

5. Of the 1,734 deaths registered in 1863, 566 were of infants of one year and under, or 40·2 per cent. of the total births. This, however, includes the still-born; exclusive of these, the deaths among infants of one year and under were 379, or 31·06 per cent. of the births.

6. The centesimal proportion of deaths to the total population, according to the classification of ages observed in these tables, is as follows:—

1 year and under - - - - -	24·5
1 year and under 14 - - - - -	11·7
Adults - - - - - - -	63·8

7. The highest rate of mortality appears to prevail in the parish of St. John, in which 849† deaths were registered for the year, equal to a death-rate of 5·2 per cent., or one to every 19·23 of its population. The lowest in the parish of St. Peter, the death-rate for which is 2·45 per cent., or one to every 40·8. The returns for the past quarter show 286† deaths in the parish of St. John, a mortality at the rate of nearly seven per cent. on the population of the parish.

8. In three parishes, namely, St. Mary, St. Paul, and St. Philip, the births† in 1863 have exceeded

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* There has been of late years a considerable diminution of marriages; in 1840 they numbered 554; in 1863 they dwindled to 163. Vide Return No. 14.

† Exclusive of still-born.

the deaths* by 14-8, and 6, or 11 · 52, 5 · 75, and 4 · 47 per cent.; whilst in the parishes of St. John, St. Peter, and St. George the deaths have exceeded the births by 317, 9, and 29, or 59 · 6, 6 · 52, and 22 · 8 per cent.

9. The centesimal proportion of deaths among infants of one year and under to the total births for the year* is as follows in the six parishes :—

St. John	33·08
St. Mary	27·205
St. Paul	26·53
St. Philip	25·71
St. Peter	34·058
St. George	34·64

Showing the mortality among infants in the parishes of St. John, St. Peter, and St. George to be in much greater proportion than in the other parishes.

10. The returns for the last quarter exhibit a still more alarming rate of mortality among infants in all the parishes, but particularly in the three before specified, viz., St. John, St. Peter, and St. George. In the latter parish the infant mortality has reached the fearful proportion of 75 deaths to every 100 births* during the quarter.

11. The following table will show the deaths among infants of one year and under for all the parishes in the island during the past quarter.

Parish.	Registered Births, including Still-born.	Still-born.	Total Births, excluding Still-born.	Deaths 1 Year and under, exclusive of Still-born.	Centesimal Proportion of Deaths among Infants of 1 Year and under to total Births, exclusive of Still-born.
St. John	175	21	154	73	46·75
St. Mary	44	6	38	14	36·84
St. Paul	53	7	46	18	39·9
St. Philip	54	3	51	19	37·25
St. Peter	48	5	43	19	44·18
St. George	38	3	35	26	74·28

12. With reference to the great mortality existing generally, but more especially among infants, in the parish of St. John, I would respectfully call attention to the recommendation made some time ago by the Governor, that the parish of St. John should be divided into two medical districts. There cannot be a doubt but that it is impossible for one medical officer to attend to the wants of a district extending over some 13,000 acres, and with a scattered population of 16,324.

13. The results of the tables now under consideration certainly suggest the expediency of at once affording greater medical assistance to the inhabitants of the parish of St. John.

14. The discharge of the various official duties devolving upon me since my arrival in the Colony in May last has up to this moment prevented my visiting any of the country districts; I have therefore been precluded from acquiring information, by personal observation, as to the causes inducing this diminution within the two last years of the native population of the Colony. I am, however, informed by persons of experience, and possessing great local knowledge, that the prevalence of the small-pox during the greater part of 1862 and in the beginning of 1863, and the visitation in the latter year of one of the severest droughts on record, have, with perhaps other causes, produced a degree of distress and destitution never before witnessed in Antigua.

15. Dr. O'Kearney, the registrar and medical officer of St. John's, reports as follows on the causes of mortality in his district. "This district is at present free from small-pox, the hospital for reception of persons suffering from that disease having been closed on the 13th of October 1863. The total number of cases which occurred in the parish of St. John from the recognition of the disease on the 19th September 1862 was—

"In my own practice	1,136
"In Dr. A. Nicholson's	600
	1,736

"The number of deaths has been 129; the number of children under 10 years of age attacked has been in very small proportion to the whole number, a circumstance to be attributed to compulsory vaccination. In some instances the disease occurred after successful vaccination, in a modified form, and was found very amenable to medical treatment.

"Of the deaths occurring amongst adults most were attributable to pustular eruption of the fauces and commencement of the air passages; in four the proximate cause was delirium tremens brought on by privation of the accustomed stimulants, and in three was owing to complication with syphilis and consequent gangrene.

"It is deserving of remark that though the disease did not prove immediately fatal, I have reason to believe that in many instances in which recovery has occurred it has seriously impaired the constitution of the sufferers, and rendered them an easy prey to diseases of subsequent occurrence, and

* Exclusive of still-born.

ANTIGUA.

that, taken in conjunction with long-continued drought and depressed circumstances, a proportion of deaths during the past quarter may be fairly attributed to its remote influence.

"The condition of the labouring class in this district as regards midwifery attendance is deplorable in the extreme; in fact, the question may be well raised whether the poor would not be better left to the resources of nature than committed, during the trying period of child-birth, to the care of the uneducated and mercenary class who make profession of midwifery skill. In the country districts, and also in the city of St. John, the midwives generally belong to a class of persons who from age or infirmity are incapacitated from other work, and who with equal rashness and ignorance too often have recourse to practices incompatible with safety to mother and child. It would be easy to instance cases of examples of bad results of recent occurrence bearing upon the important subject should such be required.

"Uncleanliness and overcrowding of dwellings, at all times a fruitful source of disease and evils, which act most insidiously in debilitating the human frame, and rendering it incapable of resisting morbific causes, will be found to exist and prevail, as a general rule, throughout the city and country districts where the labouring classes are congregated.

"The weekly or more frequent assemblies at dancing houses, or so-called 'rendezvous,' are also prolific sources of immoralities, debaucheries, and disease, and I have no hesitation in attributing many of the still-births in the district to this cause.

"Of cases which have come under my care during this and the preceding quarter, many have been certified by clergymen or magistrates to be poor and destitute, and I have found them in many instances to correspond to the description, and to be to all appearance in want of the necessaries of life; in others so certified I have found them living in apparent comfort and in the receipt of a weekly allowance from the Poor Law Board. Many of the first class alluded to required nourishing diet and domestic care and necessaries more than medical aid or medicine, yet, so far as I can understand, no power of relieving their wants existed.

"With the exception of the occurrence of some cases of influenza, diarrhœa, and dysentery, the district may be considered generally healthy at present date."

16. Mr. Black, the medical officer for the parish of St. Philip, in his report for the quarter ended 31st December 1863, observes :—

"The labouring population generally are insufficiently fed, are careless of home comforts, and have very imperfect impressions of the absolute necessity and value of fresh air and ventilation for their health and comfort, and when attacked are soon prostrated. I have noticed in the cases of recovery from small-pox that for the want of nourishing food, wine, &c., they remain a long time feeble and languid."

"I think our population suffered, too, from the scarcity of provisions in the dry season."

Return No. 6.

17. The decrease in the native population since the taking of the census in 1861 appears to be 1,068, or at the rate of nearly one per cent. per annum.

Return No. 6.

18. The introduction into the Colony in 1863 of 1,298 immigrants has raised the population to 230 in excess of the last census returns. But this increase does not, I apprehend, materially affect the calculations in the tables submitted, as the importation of these immigrants was spread over five or six months in the latter part of the year, whilst the corrected population at the beginning of 1863 was but 35,671; the assumption, therefore, of an average population of 36,412 for the year is rather in favour of the Colony than otherwise.

19. After a careful consideration of the returns of the district registrars, I cannot concur in the opinion that the results of the registration table for 1861, 1862, and 1863, showing a decrease in the native population, are caused rather by the deficient return of births (especially in cases of illegitimacy) than by any great mortality among the people. The returns of the district registrars are, I consider, sufficiently accurate to render them valuable, not only for statistical but also for legal purposes. The country districts are not large, and as all the registrars reside within their districts, they naturally possess a knowledge of persons and localities which would enable them readily to discover any important discrepancy in their returns. No doubt is expressed as to the correctness of the returns of deaths. The returns of the Registrar-General of England strongly corroborate the accuracy of the Antigua return of births. The birth-rate for England in 1861 was 1 to every 29 living persons, that for Antigua, in 1863, 1 to every 29·84;* and the return showing that 59 per cent. of the total births registered in 1863 were illegitimate is in itself sufficient evidence that but very few of illegitimate births escape registration.

Report of the Registrar-General, Feb. 6, 1857. Report of the Committee to inquire into the sanitary condition of the Island, Sept. 11, 1861. Report of Acting Registrar-General for 1862. Dr. O'Kearney's Report for Dec. quarter, 1863.

20. I would also notice that for the seven years from 1857 to 1863 the deaths have been in excess of the births by 869,* that the return for the same period of baptisms and burials registered by the clergy of the several religious denominations in the Colony show an excess of burials over baptisms of 732, and that the registered births and deaths have exceeded the registered baptisms and burials by 527 and 673. I can only account for this disagreement in the returns by the supposition, founded on the official reports noted in the margin, that the difference represents to a great extent infants who, from premature birth, neglect, or unskilfulness on the part of the midwives, have died soon after birth, and before the rite of baptism could be administered, and as a consequence do not appear in the registers kept by the clergy.

21. It is to be observed that no provision exists for the registration of births and deaths in Barbuda, although it has been an integral part of the Colony since the year 1860. The returns under present consideration are therefore in every respect exclusive of the population of that island.

22. I feel it my duty to solicit consideration to the observations made in several of the annual reports of the Registrar-General as to the insufficiency of the staff of the office of the Colonial

* Exclusive of still-born.

Secretary for the due conduct of the Registrar-General's department. Mr. Musgrave, in his report for 1858, remarks—

"I find it wholly impracticable to discharge the duties devolving upon me in respect of these returns as ex-officio Registrar-General without more clerical assistance than is now afforded to my office by the public. The mere transcription of the registry returns into the general registry, with the subsequent entries into the indexes and periodical abstracts under direction, form almost sufficient occupation for a single clerk. During the two last years, without reference to the additional labour created by the registration of births and deaths, I should have found it difficult, without other aid, to discharge satisfactorily the numerous duties belonging to my department in respect to the judicial, legislative, and executive business of the country, of which those arising from the courts of justice have largely increased during that period as compared with several previous years."

23. Recent experience has fully borne out the correctness of the above remarks. Mr. C. M. Brathwaite, the gentleman recently appointed to bring up the arrears of work existing in the departments under the charge of the Colonial Secretary, has now been engaged for six weeks in the preparation of the indexes to the registers of births and deaths, and although he has been active and diligent in the performance of his duty, he has only been able to index 6,000 entries during that period. At this rate the annual work of the Registrar-General's department would engross the services of a clerk for at least six months in each year.

24. It is to be feared that the principal object of the Act for establishing a registry of births and deaths will be but imperfectly accomplished if the important records of the office of the Registrar-General are, from the want of adequate clerical assistance, permitted to remain in a state which will render reference to any particular entry a matter of great difficulty, if not of impossibility.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) EDWIN D. BAYNES,
Colonial Secretary and Registrar-General.

His Excellency Colonel Hill, C.B., Governor-in-Chief.

The 15th Section of the Act No. 1,079 for registering Births and Deaths provides, "That all the "provisions of this Act touching the registering of Births and Deaths be held to apply to all "still-born Children who may have arrived at a period of viability."

Return No. 1.

Total Births, including Still-born.

	Population 35,408.				Population 36,412.		
	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
	1,515	1,273	1,346	1,298	1,328	1,072	1,407
Increase 1863 - - -	—	131	161	109	79	335	—
Decrease 1863 - - -	108	—	—	—	—	—	—
Increase per cent. - -	—	10·3	11·96	8·4	5·95	31·25	—

Return No. 2.

Still-born.

	158	123	138	169	161	114	187
Per cent. on total births in each year.	10·43	9·66	10·25	1	12·12	10·64	13·29

Total Births, exclusive of Still-born.

	1,357	1,150	1,208	1,129	1,167	958	1,220

Return No. 3.

Legitimate, including Still-born.

	696	587	650	601	612	501	575
Per cent. on total births -	45·95	46·12	48·3	46·3	46·1	46·74	40·9

Illegitimate, including Still-born.

	819	686	696	697	716	571	832
Per cent. on total births -	54·05	53·88	71.5	53·7	53·9	53·26	59·1

Deaths.

Return No. 4.

Total Deaths, including Still-born.

	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
	1,346	1,311	1,241	1,344	1,403	1,738	1,734
Increase in 1863 - -	388	423	493	390	331	—	—
Decrease in 1863 - -	—	—	—	—	—	4	—

Total Deaths, excluding Still-born.

	1,188	1,188	1,103	1,175	1,242	1,624	1,547
Increase in 1863 - -	359	359	444	372	305	—	—
Decrease in 1863 - -	—	—	—	—	—	77	—
Increase per cent. on number of deaths in 1863 - -	30·22	30·22	40·25	31·66	24·55	—	—
Decrease per cent. on number of deaths as compared with 1863 - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	4·74	—

Return No. 5.

Average annual number of deaths from 1857 to 1861 - -	1,179
Excess of deaths in 1862 over average of seven years - -	449
Being at the rate per cent. of - - - - -	38
Excess of deaths in 1863 over average of last seven years -	368
Being at the rate per cent. of - - - - -	31

Return No. 6.

Population in April 1861 - - - - -		36,412
Increase by births in 1861 and 1862 - - - -		2,125
		38,537
Decrease by deaths in 1861 and 1862 - - -		2,866
Corrected population 31st December 1862 - - -		35,671
Increase by births in 1863 - - - - -		1,220
		36,891
Decrease by deaths - - - - - -		1,547
		35,344
Decrease of native population since 1861 - -	1,068	
Annual decrease since 1861 per cent. - -	0·978	
Immigrants introduced from August to December - -		1,298
Corrected population on 31st December 1863 -		36,642
Increase - - - - - -	230	

Return No. 7.

Death-rate for the year 1863 - - - -	4·24

Return No. 8.

Deaths 1863.

Infants of 1 year and under, including still-born -	566	
Centesimal proportion to total births - - -		40·2
Infants of 1 year and under exclusive of still-born -	379	
Centesimal proportion to births - - -		31·06

Return No. 9.

Births and Deaths in the several Parishes for the year 1863.

PARISH.	Population.	Births exclusive of still-born.	Deaths exclusive of still-born.	Excess of Deaths over Births exclusive of still-born.	Excess of Births over Deaths exclusive of still-born.	Excess of Births over Deaths per cent.	Excess of Deaths over Births per cent.	Death-rate per cent. exclusive of still born.
St. John - - -	16,324	532	849	317	—	—	59·6	5·2
St. Mary - - -	4,056	136	122	—	14	11·52	—	3·
St. Paul - - -	4,239	147	139	—	8	5·75	—	3·28
St. Philip - - -	3,870	140	134	—	6	4·47	—	3·46
St. Peter - - -	5,997	138	147	9	—	—	6·52	2·45
St. George - - -	3,926	127	156	29	—	—	22·8	3·97

Return No. 10.

Births and Deaths in the several Parishes for the quarter ended 31st December 1863.

PARISH.	Population.	Births exclusive of still-born.	Deaths exclusive of still-born.	Excess of Births over Deaths exclusive of still-born.	Excess of Deaths over Births exclusive of still-born.	Excess of Births per cent. over Deaths.	Excess of Deaths per cent. over Births.	Death-rate for the Quarter.
St. John - - -	16,324	154	280	—	126	818	—	1·715
St. Mary - - -	4,056	38	40	4	—	—	10·53	0·986
St. Paul - - -	4,239	46	62	—	9	19·56	—	1·462
St. Philip - - -	3,870	51	62	—	11	23·53	—	1·602
St. Peter - - -	5,997	43	53	—	10	23·26	—	·884
St. George - - -	3,926	33	55	—	22	69·7	—	1·401

Return No. 11.

Population according to last Census.

	Complexion.		
	Black.	White.	Coloured.
	27,237	2,556.	6,619.
Deaths in 1863 - - -	1,265	107	362
Deduct still-born - -	142	7	38
	1,123	100	324
Death-rate - - - -	4·123	3·912	4·895
	or 1 in 24·25	or 1 in 25·56	or 1 in 20·43
Births in 1863 - - - -	1,015	102	290
Deduct still-born - - -	142	7	38
	873	95	252
Birth rate - - - -	3·205	3·325	3·806
	or 1 in 31·2	or 1 in 26·9	or 1 in 26·26
Excess of deaths over births - -	250	5	72
Still-born per cent. on registered births -	13·98	6·862	13·1

Return No. 12.

Causes of Death.	Total No. of Deaths.	Centesimal Proportion to total No. of Deaths [1,547].	Complexion. Black. Centesimal Proportion to total Deaths [1,123].	White. Centesimal Proportion to total Deaths [100].	Coloured. Centesimal Proportion to total Deaths [324].
	Excluding Still-born.				
Zymotic, epidemic, endemic, or contagious or eruptive fevers	364	23·529	25·29	13	20·679
Dropsy, cancer, and other diseases of uncertain or variable seat.	88	5·688	5·877	3	5·864
Tubercular diseases	175	11·313	9·8	8	17·6
Diseases of the brain, spinal marrow, nerves, and senses	120	7·764	7·747	8	7·716
Diseases of the heart and blood-vessels	50	3·233	3·65	3	1·851
Diseases of the lungs and other organs of respiration	82	5·3	4·896	12	4·629
Diseases of the stomach, liver, and other organs of digestion	271	17·512	16·83	24	17·9
Diseases of the kidneys	7	0·453	0·356	—	0·925
Childbirth, diseases of the womb, &c.	22	1·423	1·246	3	1·543
Rheumatism, diseases of the bones, joints, &c.	14	0·905	0·89	1	0·925
Diseases of the skin, cellular tissues, &c.	48	3·104	3·561	3	1·543
Malformations	1	0·065	0·089	—	—
Premature birth and debility	75	4·849	4·274	3	7·408
Atrophy	30	1·933	1·335	4	3·394
Age	130	8·404	9·88	5	4·321
Sudden	5	0·324	0·356	1	—
Violence, privation, poison, intemperance, &c.	27	1·745	1·246	4	2·777
Still-born	—	—	—	—	—
Causes not specified	38	2·456	2·670	5	0·925
		100·	100·	100	100·

Return No. 13.

Births and Deaths and Baptisms and Burials from 1857 to 1863.

—	Baptisms.	Registered Births exclusive of still-born.	Excess of Registered Births over Baptisms.	Burials.	Registered Deaths exclusive of still-born.	Excess of Registered Deaths over Burials.
1857	1,200	1,357	157	1,025	1,188	163
1858	1,139	1,150	11	1,101	1,188	87
1859	1,123	1,208	85	1,002	1,103	101
1860	1,037	1,129	92	1,083	1,175	92
1861	1,095	1,167	72	1,164	1,242	78
1862	947	958	11	1,551	1,624	73
1863	1,121	1,220	99	1,468	1,547	79
Totals	7,662	8,189	527	8,394	9,067	673

Excess of Burials over Baptisms from 1857 to 1863 - - - 732
Excess of Deaths over Births from 1857 to 1863 - - - - 878

Return No. 14.

Marriages.

1836	329
1840	554
1843	484
1850	168
1857	234
1863	163

Office of Registrar-General of Births and Deaths.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1863.

PARISH.	No. of Births.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Complexion.			No. of Deaths.	ADULTS.		Under 14 and over one year.		One year and under.		Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
Saint John -	609	122	113	184	190	376	53	180	926	296	275	57	45	139	114	625	63	238
Saint Mary -	153	36	43	33	41	146	1	6	139	36	39	7	3	25	29	130	–	9
Saint Paul -	171	41	35	39	56	139	13	19	163	42	43	9	6	32	31	139	9	15
Saint Philip -	156	35	32	43	46	120	17	19	150	44	39	8	7	31	21	120	13	17
Saint Peter -	171	32	27	60	52	117	13	41	180	38	39	14	9	50	30	121	11	48
Saint George	147	30	29	53	35	117	5	25	176	40	35	7	10	39	25	130	11	35
TOTALS -	1,407	296	279	412	420	1,015	102	290	1,734	496	490	102	80	316	250	1,265	107	362

Office of Registrar-General of Births and Deaths.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR EACH QUARTER OF THE YEAR 1863.

QUARTERS.	No. of Births.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Complexion.			No. of Deaths.	ADULTS.		Under 14 and over one year		One year and under.		Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
To 31 March	330	87	59	91	93	236	22	72	371	122	104	20	18	62	45	288	16	67
To 30 June	336	62	69	97	108	251	22	63	354	108	96	18	13	65	54	273	20	61
To 30 Sept.	329	68	72	95	94	227	27	75	410	121	137	11	15	73	53	283	29	98
To 31 Dec.	412	79	79	129	125	301	31	80	599	145	153	53	34	116	98	421	42	136
TOTALS -	1,407	296	279	412	420	1,015	102	290	1,734	496	490	102	80	316	250	1,265	107	362

Office of Registrar-General of Births and Deaths.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1863.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	No. of Deaths.	ADULTS.		Under 14 and over 1 year.		1 Year and under.		Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
I. SPECIFIED CAUSES.										
A. *General Diseases.*										
Zymotic (epidemic, endemic, or contagious) or eruptive fevers.	364	100	95	25	23	69	52	284	13	67
B. *Sporadic Diseases.*										
Dropsy, cancer, and other diseases of uncertain or variable seat.	88	34	37	11	5	1	—	66	3	19
Tubercular diseases - - - -	175	79	89	5	1	—	1	110	8	57
Diseases of the brain, spinal marrow, nerves and senses.	120	36	35	3	3	22	21	87	8	25
Diseases of the heart and blood vessels -	50	25	24	—	—	1	—	41	3	6
Diseases of the lungs, and other organs of respiration.	82	24	24	4	7	11	12	55	12	15
Diseases of the stomach, liver, and other organs of digestion.	271	65	39	38	29	53	47	189	24	58
Diseases of the kidneys - - -	7	6	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	3
Childbirth, diseases of the womb, &c. -	22	—	22	—	—	—	—	14	3	5
Rheumatism, diseases of the bones, joints, &c.	14	8	5	—	—	—	1	10	1	3
Diseases of the skin, cellular tissues, &c. -	48	22	22	3	1	—	—	40	3	5
Malformations, &c. - - - - -	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Premature birth and debility - - -	75	9	4	3	—	35	24	48	3	24
Atrophy - - - - - -	30	1	6	5	3	10	5	15	4	11
Age - - - - - - -	130	59	71	—	—	—	—	111	5	14
Sudden - - - - - -	5	2	2	—	1	—	—	4	1	—
Violence, privation, poison, intemperance, &c.	27	11	5	5	5	—	1	14	4	9
Still-born - - - - - -	187	—	—	—	—	105	82	142	7	38
II. CAUSES NOT SPECIFIED - - -	38	15	10	—	2	7	4	30	5	3
Totals - - - -	1,734	496	490	102	80	316	250	1,265	107	362

ANTIGUA.

Sub-Enclosure 2.

LUNATIC ASYLUM, ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA.

THE Lunatic Asylum is situated on the summit of Rat Island, rising out of the harbour of St. John's to an elevation of 90 feet, west of the city, and connected with it by a causeway about 800 feet in length. The asylum is capable of containing 50 patients with ease; the annual average is 43. The proportion of the sexes varies, but for the most part the females preponderate.

In 1863 there remained in the asylum on 1st January 49 inmates, 19 males and 30 females; 20 more were admitted during the year. 14 died and 12 were discharged cured, leaving on the 31st December 43, viz., 16 males, 27 females.

The class of patients admitted into the lunatic asylum is for the most part composed of labourers, artizans, and persons belonging to the lower orders; and very few comparatively can either read or write, so that it is, strictly speaking, a pauper asylum. The medico-moral treatment is adopted, in keeping with the modern management of the insane, as far as practicable. Many of the cases are incurable; but every available means is employed to ameliorate their condition as much as possible, by trying to elevate their mental and moral as well as to improve their physical well-being.

Of the deaths in 1863, 5 were cases of chronic mania, 4 of senile dementia, 3 of epilepsy, 1 of monomania, and 1 of alcholismus.

Of the 69 who were treated in the asylum during the year, 48 were classed under mania, 2 under melancholia, 8 under dementia, 9 under epilepsy, and 2 under other forms.

The asylum is supported entirely at the public cost by an Act of the Legislature assigning a sum not exceeding 800*l.* per annum to this object. It is under the management of a Board of Guardians, nominated by his Excellency the Governor, and consisting at present of the Bishop of the Diocese, the Rev. J. W. Westerby, Moravian Bishop, the Rev. J. T. Hartwell, Superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission, and Edward Becket and G. C. Davis, Esqrs., Members of the Legislature.

The medical attendant, Dr. Adam Nicholson, has had large experience in similar institutions in London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Paris. He has for some years been in medical charge of the asylum, and to his ability, attention, and zeal much of its success is due. The staff of the institution, besides the cook and laundress, consists of the superintendent, who has long filled the office, a matron, and two male and two female attendants.

W. W. ANTIGUA,
Chairman of Board of Guardians.

June 23, 1864.

Sub-Enclosure 3.

THE HOLBERTON HOSPITAL, ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA.

THE Holberton Hospital was for many years supported by voluntary contributions, subsidized only by grants from the Legislature; but in 1856 it was permanently endowed as a public institution of the Colony. At present it receives from the treasury a stated allowance of 1,000*l.* per annum, with a supplemental grant each year of an amount sufficient to cover its expenditure, which is now carefully kept within 1,300*l.* per annum.

In 1863 there were treated in the hospital 553 patients, male and female, the males preponderating in the proportion of two to one. Of these, 47 were remaining in hospital on the 1st January 1863, and 506 were admitted in the course of the year. The largest number occupying beds on any one day was 79; the average 60. 410 were discharged cured or relieved; and 96 died, viz., 42 of phthisis, 17 of dropsy, 4 of debility, 6 of fever, 7 of pneumonia, 3 of gangrenous ulcers, 7 of disease of the heart, 1 of disease of the brain, 1 in childbirth, 1 of tetanus, 4 of dysentery, 3 of dry belly-ache. There remained in hospital on 31st December 47 patients.

Besides these, a considerable number of out-patients, averaging about 13 daily, received gratuitous medical advice, surgical treatment, and medicine. During the prevalence also of small-pox, medicines were dispensed gratuitously to all the patients under treatment of the district and small-pox medical officers.

The hospital is placed at the north-eastern extremity of the city, entirely open to the trade-wind, with ample grounds in front attached to the institution and occupied by the public gardens. Recently, through a special grant from the Legislature, a series of effective surface drains has been laid down, and the whole area of the hospital enclosure levelled and filled in with compact macadamized stone.

The buildings occupy three sides of an oblong quadrangle extending from east to west, and affording sufficient accommodation for 90 to 100 beds. They are, without exception, thoroughly ventilated, and are kept in a condition of entire cleanliness and order.

The affairs of the hospital are superintended by a Board of Directors appointed by the Governor, and consisting at present of the Bishop of the Diocese, the Moravian Bishop, the Hon. C. M. Eldridge, member of the Executive Council, James Gordon, George Black, and P. Burns, Esqrs., Members of Assembly, and Wm. Forrest, Esq., merchant. They meet once a week for visitation of the inmates, inspection of the buildings, and regulation of the expenditure, every detail of which is submitted to them.

The staff of the hospital consists of a surgeon, visiting daily (the same medical officer in charge of the lunatic asylum), a resident warden possessing a considerable knowledge of medicine and surgery, a dispenser, and two experienced nurses, besides the domestics attached to the kitchen and the laundry.

The curate of St. John's gives a service on a stated day in each week, and visits more frequently the bedsides of the patients dangerously ill; and the ministers of other religious bodies have constant access to any members of their respective flocks requiring their ministrations. ANTIGUA.

W. W. ANTIGUA,
Chairman of Board of Directors.

June 23, 1864.

MONTSERRAT.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 13.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 114.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
July 26, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Montserrat for the year ended the 31st December 1863, with Mr. President Robinson's report thereon.

No. 40.
June 15, 1864.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 13.

(No. 40.)

SIR,

Government House, June 15, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for transmission to Downing Street, the Blue Book of Montserrat for 1863.

Revenue and Expenditure.—Public Debt.

2. Although the revenue of last year (3,891*l.* 3*s.* 8½*d.*) fell short of that of the preceding (4,490*l.* 5*s.* 10½*d.*) by 599*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*, there was nevertheless a balance of 47*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* in the hands of the treasurer on the 31st December available for the services of 1864.

1863.	£	s.	d.
Revenue -	3,891	3	8½
Expenditure	3.843	11	4½
	£47	12	4

All public engagements were duly met, and the tenth instalment (1,561*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*) due to the Imperial Government on account of the earthquake loan was punctually remitted in the month of June.

3. The decrease in the revenue was mainly owing to a reduction of 5*s.* on the 100*l.* in the rate of the property tax; that in the expenditure (508*l.* 19*s.* 1½*d.*) was the result of economy.

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
1862 -	4,352	10	6
1863 -	3,843	11	4½
	£508	19	1½

4. With a view of affording some encouragement to the agriculturist and in the hope of inducing persons of capital to take up portions of the numerous valuable properties at present unfortunately out of cultivation, I have not, since my assumption of the government, opposed such reductions in taxes bearing immediately on those engaged in agriculture as might, I conceived, be made without damaging the efficiency of public institutions, which must of course be duly supported and creditably maintained.

Public Works.

5. No public works of importance were undertaken during 1863. The roads throughout the island were, by the aid of statute labour, kept in a creditable and serviceable condition at a cost to the country of 37*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* as compared with a sum of 78*l.* 3*s.* expended for a similar service during the previous twelve months, and a supplementary amount of 140*l.* 9*s.* 7¾*d.* was laid out in the improvement of the premises recently leased as a residence for the Officer Administering the Government.

6. While upon this subject I may mention that the Assembly has at length granted a sum of 500*l.* for the erection of a wharf in the town of Plymouth, and I hope shortly to be in a position to report that we are deriving advantage from the substitution of a safe and convenient landing place for the present barbarous practice of "beaching" the boats, under which passengers and cargo are subjected to an uncomfortable and hazardous treatment, which cannot but be an impediment to those engaged in mercantile and other business pursuits.

MONTSERRAT.

Legislation.

7. The legislation of 1863 is noticeable on account of the number and importance of the measures enacted. The session was opened in February 1863, and closed in March of the present year, during which period 19 Acts were passed, many of which deserve to be referred to in this place, evincing, as they abundantly do, an intelligence, a diligence, and a forethought on the part of the Legislature highly creditable to that body, and contrasting favourably with the state of things only a few years back, when, to use the words of Mr. Baynes in his Report for 1862, "Little (legislation) of any kind was "obtained beyond that of passing, long after the proper time, a few inefficient tax bills." I subjoin the titles of the Acts above referred to.

An Act for establishing a Board of Health.

An Act to make compulsory and to provide for the practice of vaccination.

An Act for the management and regulation of the branch of the Imperial Post Office established in this island.

An Act for establishing a Committee of Public Works.

An Act to continue the Tariff Act.

An Act to continue an Act entitled An Act to impose a duty upon certain articles exported from this island.

An Act to amend the law relating to bills of exchange, promissory notes, orders for the payment of money, and bills of lading, and to regulate the rate of interest.

An Act to assimilate the laws of this island to those of England as regards the substitution of affirmations or solemn declarations in lieu of oaths.

An Act to amend the law respecting coroners' inquests.

An Act to amend and consolidate the laws relating to the execution and registration of deeds.

An Act to regulate the sale of arsenic.

An Act supplementary to and repealing and amending certain clauses of the Constitution Act, 1862.

An Act for imposing duties upon certain articles imported into this island.

An Act to abolish the grand jury in Montserrat.

An Act to provide for the uniform valuation of lands, tenements, or hereditaments in this island for the purpose of taxation.

An Act to impose a tax upon all horses, mares, geldings, colts, fillies, and mules.

An Act concerning oaths and affirmations.

An Act to impose a tax upon all real property in this island; and,

An Act providing for a system of Post Office money orders.

Having reported at the time of passing, on such of the above measures as appeared to me to require special comment, I need not now occupy space with a recapitulation of those explanations. The natures of the enactments are, for all purposes of this report, sufficiently explained by the titles which I have quoted.

Population.

8. The census has not been taken since 1861. At that date the population of the Colony was as under:—

Males - - - -	3,447
Females - - - -	4,198
Total - - - -	7,645

9. In 1851 the census returns gave a population of 7,053; the apparent increase, therefore, during the ten years from 1851 to 1861, was at the rate of ·84 per cent. per annum, but the actual increase was considerably greater, for if we take into calculation the drain on the island caused by a large emigration to the surrounding colonies, the annual increase during the period above referred to need not be put down at less than two per cent.

10. Emigration has now almost entirely ceased, in consequence probably of the facile acquisition of provision grounds, which the planter finds it to his advantage to allow the labourer; and, speaking on an opinion and not from any reliable data, it appears to me the increase of population, of which the country derives the benefit, may be now safely estimated at two and a half per cent. per annum.

11. From the accompanying returns of the Registrar-General, the first of the kind in Montserrat, it will be observed that the legitimate births of 1863 (123), fell short of the illegitimate (190) by 67; that the total number of births (313) exceeded the total

number of deaths (158) by 155; and that 31 marriages were solemnized during the period under review.

Education.

12. I regret that under the important head of "Education" I have nothing to add to my report of last year. The schools, however, continue to be creditably supported, and I was much pleased with the aptitude and diligence displayed by the scholars in those which I visited during the course of the year.

13. When opening the present session of the Legislature, I addressed the House as follows upon this subject:—"I trust that you will shortly find yourselves in a position "to devote some portion of the revenue to the maintenance of the schools in connexion "with the different religious denominations, which are now supported partly by Imperial "funds, partly by voluntary contributions, but without any assistance whatsoever from "the local treasury. I believe that on this point our views are identical, and that you "will be anxious to make some grant in aid so soon as the finances of the Colony shall "admit of your so doing."

14. I must add that the Colonial Secretary informs me he has been unable to obtain from Mr. Smith, the Roman Catholic priest, any information whatsoever with reference to the schools in connexion with the Roman Catholic community; and it will not be forgotten that when supplying the information with regard to churches and schools called for by the Secretary of State's circular letter of the 15th January last, I was obliged to report "the Colonial Secretary has thrice applied to the Roman Catholic "priest for, and I have waited until the last moment in the hope of receiving, the "information required for this return; and I regret I am now compelled to forward "the same in blank in so far as the Roman Catholic community is concerned.

Coins.

15. The question of the abolition of the mutilated coins which now pass current in Montserrat has been before the Legislature since 1860. In that year the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury suggested that the receipt of these coins should be abolished so soon as the measure could be adopted, "with due regard to the convenience "and interests of the shopkeepers and small traders." In March 1863 the Secretary of State called on me to report what steps had been taken "in pursuance of the desire expressed "by the Lords of the Treasury in their letter of the 27th April 1860." "I regret to have "to state," I reported in reply, "that no steps whatever were taken at the time by the "Legislature for the purpose of carrying out the suggestions contained in the documents last referred to; but I have now brought the subject again to the notice of the "Assembly, nor have I failed to impress upon that body the necessity of at once taking "action in the matter, and your Excellency may be assured that I will not allow the "question to be put out of sight until measures shall have been adopted for abolishing "the mutilated coins with as little pressure as may be upon the public and private "resources of the Colony."

Mr. Hamilton to Under Secretary for the Colonies, April 27, 1860.
D. S. Montserrat, No. 295 of Mar. 6, 1863.
President Robinson to Governor Hill No. 103 of June 27, 1863.

16. I find that in addition to British gold and silver money, doubloons, American and Spanish dollars, and gold coins of the United States of America, there are in general circulation in the island copper pieces called "dogs," which pass current at the rate of $\frac{2}{3}d.$ sterling, to the value of about 240*l.* sterling, and cut silver money (principally Spanish American) to the value of about 600*l.* sterling, which pass current at the following rates:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Quarter dollar - - - -	0	1	0
Four shilling (currency) piece - -	0	1	9
Two " " " - -	0	0	$10\frac{1}{2}$
One " " " - -	0	0	$5\frac{1}{4}$
Bitt " - -	0	0	4
Four dog " - -	0	0	$2\frac{2}{3}$

17. While admitting that it would be desirable to abolish the receipt of defaced money, and to place the currency of the Colony on a footing with that of other British possessions in these seas, the Legislative Assembly is loth to increase the burden of the tax-payers at the present moment for the purpose of effecting that object. The amount required would be about 300*l.* sterling. The copper "dogs" are valueless except as tokens; on these, therefore, the loss would be about 240*l.* On the cut silver money, of which we have about six hundred pounds worth in circulation, we should lose some ten per cent., or 60*l.* sterling.

MONTSERRAT.

Imports and Exports.

18. These tables do not appear to call for any special remarks. The imports were valued at 20,089*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, the exports at 15,155*l.* 5*s.*, showing, as compared with 1862, a decrease in the value of the former of 2,296*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, and an increase in that of the latter of 272*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*

Agriculture.

19. When reporting on the Blue Book for 1862, I expressed a fear that owing to a continuance of unseasonable weather, and in spite of unusually extensive preparations, the crop of 1863 would not equal even that of the preceding year. I have much pleasure, however, in pointing out that those forebodings were not realized, and that the crop of last year (955 hogsheads) exceeded that of 1862 (904 hogsheads) by 51 hogsheads.

20. The planters are making extensive preparations for next year. While I write, the weather, although not all that could be desired, is far from unfavourable, and if sugar remains at its present remunerative price, I am in hope the next two years will more than compensate for the unprofitable seasons with which we have lately had to contend.

21. It is to be regretted that more attention is not bestowed in this island to the growth of cotton; which being a much less expensive cultivation than that of the sugar cane, and less susceptible to and dependent on the variations of a capricious climate, is less risky and better suited in every respect to the agriculturist of limited capital.

22. We have in the northern and southern districts some thousands of acres of land, at present uncultivated, admirably adapted to the purpose, and which may, I am told, be purchased or leased on very easy terms. The ordinary rental in the districts to which I refer averages 10*s.* an acre.

Planters on whose experience I can rely inform me that the cost of putting in an acre of cotton, keeping it clean, and reaping and ginning the crop, comes to about 5*l.* an acre where the land is already clear of brushwood, and to about 6*l.* 10*s.* where the brushwood has in the first instance to be got rid of. The average yield per acre, allowing for the failure of some of the trees and other accidental losses, need not be estimated at less than 400 lbs. of ginned cotton. The "sugar-loaf," which grows luxuriantly with us, and to which I now refer, sells at present in the home market at from 2*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.* per lb. Take it at 2*s.*, and the acre will give 40*l.* sterling. From this we must deduct about six per cent. (say 2*l.* 8*s.*) for freight, insurance, merchants' and other charges, 10*s.* for rent of land, and 6*l.* 10*s.* for the cost of production (allowing at the outset for the clearing of the land), and there remains the very handsome profit of 30*l.* 12*s.* on each acre of the cultivation.

23. At a time when cotton is in demand, and many are seeking a field for its production, I have thought it well to offer the foregoing observations, but in case my information, necessarily second-hand, should be accepted with any degree of hesitation, I proceed to quote some remarks, in which the reader may have every confidence, from a letter which I have recently received from Mr. J. Marshall Sturge, an intelligent and enterprising planter, and the owner of extensive properties in this island.

"In June last year I had two acres of 'cushaw'* cut down, the bush burnt, and the land planted with seed bought from the people, which has proved to be a mixture, 'curacoa' and 'loaf' cotton.

"From these two acres I find I have reaped 800 lbs. of ginned cotton, or 400 lbs. per acre, but had it not been for the very severe drought I think I should have had much more, and expect, now that we have had rain, it will again come into flower. The cost, beginning with cutting down the bush up to gathering, I find has been 7*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* sterling, or thereabouts, say 3*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* per acre.

"I think you may safely estimate the cost of gathering at not more than 1*d.* sterling per lb., and the cost of roller ginning at the same. When there is only a little cotton to pick it costs most, and it will waste if you leave it in the hope of gathering it more cheaply when there is more ready to pick. The larger the scale on which the cultivation is attempted the less per acre it will, I think, cost, particularly in gathering. I have some 20 acres planted altogether, but it is a patch of land here and there, such as was not very suitable or convenient for canes, and of course this is likely to make the expense per acre more.

"The loaf was valued, from a sample I sent home this spring, at from 2*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.* sterling per lb., and was pronounced by a Rochdale manufacturer to be equal to any American, except 'Sea Island.' This loaf cotton I should say was, all things considered,

* Acacia.

the best to grow in this island, and next to this I should place the 'Sea Island.' Indeed, I have been so much pleased with the result with regard to some of the latter, that I am almost inclined to think that the extra price may compensate for the smaller yield per acre. The yield per acre of the 'loaf' cotton is, I should say, larger than that of any other.

"I should remark that the cotton grown from native seeds is liable to be attacked with a white blight, which I hope may not be the case with the plants from seeds from other islands or parts of the world. I am informed that the best cotton planters in the Southern States of America were in the habit of procuring seed from a distance every year.

"I reply to your queries about labour. I have not had any particular difficulty in getting it for my small quantity of cotton at about the same rate of wages as for sugar cultivation. That is regulated, as regards weeding, by the number of weeds, that is, the task will be smaller or larger, say at the rate of 8*d.* to a woman for a task, or what she will consent to do in a day, but it is quite a mistake to suppose that a task is a real day's work, as we should reckon a day's work in England. Indeed, I think two tasks would be accomplished by many hard-working English women. I should say that it is most likely that any one planting, say 1,000 acres of cotton in this island, would find that he must get labourers from other parts of the world, engaged by contract.

"I should not much fancy risking a large crop of cotton on the chances of getting it picked exactly when it was ripe by the fickle population we have to do with. It is often easy enough to get abundance of labourers for a spurt, but what we so much want is continuous, steady, dependable labour. If the labourers take a whim not to come to work for a fortnight, or even a week, half a year's crop might be lost.

"I should add that I did not dig out the stumps in my two acres, as I think it need not be done the first year. I consider a large quantity of land might be thus planted in this island with cotton very cheaply, and would grow one good crop without manure."

24. With regard to Mr. Sturge's remark that he "should not much fancy risking a "large crop of cotton on the chance of getting it picked exactly when it was ripe by the "fickle population we have to do with," it will be hardly necessary for me to observe that, with cotton at or even considerably under its present price, it would be well worth the while of any one planting, as Mr. Sturge suggests, 1,000 acres, to import from other parts of the world such additional hands as might be required.

25. It is desirable to state that whatever difficulty the cotton grower may possibly experience in procuring native labour sufficient for a cultivation on a large scale, the sugar plantations are worked under no such disadvantage. The canes, the syrup, and the molasses possess irresistible charms for the negroes, and are sufficient to attract an ample and a continuous supply of labour, especially during the crop season.

Gaol and Prisoners.

26. It appears from the annexed report of the Inspector of Prisons that 157 persons were confined in the common gaol during 1863, showing an increase of 32 as compared with the previous year. Mr. Dyett attributes that excess to "the increase of debtors "and the inability of many of the persons summarily convicted to pay the fines imposed "on them, owing to diminished employment consequent on the drought from which the "island suffered, as well as to the liberal dietary of the prison, which provided better for "the prisoners than the labourer could, in time of drought, provide for himself."

27. I have to report that we are at present engaged on the enlargement of the gaol; and with a view to explaining the necessity for that undertaking, I beg to embody the following extract from my address to the Legislative Assembly when opening the present session of the Legislature:—

"It is my duty" (I remarked to the House) "to direct your attention to the condition of the common gaol, which is such as to render classification almost impossible, and to make the establishment itself a nursery for crime instead of a place of punishment and a house of correction.

"The prison consists of five wards. Two are used for male and female debtors; two for male prisoners, without reference to offence or age; and two for female prisoners, likewise without reference to offence or age. You will not fail to perceive that, under existing circumstances, the felon and the prisoner committed either for contempt or for want of sureties are brought together and made to sleep and associate in the same ward, and it is deplorable to think that the young and comparatively inexperienced should thus be placed in contact with and under the influence of the accomplished thief and the hardened convict. I believe that many who enter the gaol refractory boys and idle girls, leave it depraved and abandoned characters. But the evils

MONTSERRAT.

resulting from a want of classification, and a consequent absence of severity in prison discipline, must be so patent to all, that I need not now detain you with any further remark on this head. We must use every exertion, gentlemen, to remove an evil which cannot but lend an impulse to vice and crime and immorality.

"Before passing on from this subject I may observe that, with the advice of the Executive Council and of the surgeon of the gaol, I have lately forbidden the use of bedding to convicted criminals, and that the scale of diet (heretofore entirely out of proportion to the ordinary fare of the labourer) has been considerably curtailed. I trust that when your honourable House shall have enabled me to construct the additional wards which are so urgently needed, we shall not again hear of a person recalling with pleasure his prison experiences, and that incarceration will not in future be sought after as affording a life of sociality, luxury, and ease."

28. Happily, as I have elsewhere reported, the Assembly unanimously responded to my appeal, and the Committee of Public Works inform me that they hope to complete the work in about three months from the present time.

Concluding Remarks.

29. In the month of March small-pox made its appearance in the northern district of the island; I immediately summoned a special meeting of the Legislature, and caused a Bill to be passed providing for the appointment of a Board of Health, under whose superintendence I am happy to say the spread of the disorder was speedily checked. Between the 31st of March 1863 and the corresponding day of the present year, two thousand children were successfully vaccinated by the public medical attendant. The vaccination was compulsory, but made free of charge to the labouring population by a payment to the public vaccinator from the colonial chest of 1*s.* per head for each successful operation.

30. With the exception of a few cases of small-pox, and excepting of course ordinary endemic sickness, the sanitary condition of the Colony has been good, and its general tranquillity undisturbed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON,
President.

His Excellency Governor Hill, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 118.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
October 7, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor, forwarding, with his Report thereon, the Blue Book of the Island of St. Kitts for the year ended the 31st December 1863.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 63.)

Government House, St. Kitts,
October 1, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency, for transmission to the Secretary of State, the Blue Book for 1863, together with a brief Report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) BENJAMIN C. C. PINE,
Lieutenant-Governor.

His Excellency Governor Hill, C.B.,
Antigua.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

REPORT on SAINT KITTS for 1863.

IN my first Blue Book Report on this Island, namely that for 1860, I gave so full an account of its affairs that I think I may be permitted to refer to that document as containing as complete and detailed a history of its past and present condition as I am capable of furnishing.

In subsequent Reports it will be only necessary for me to point out the changes which have occurred since that Report was written.

I.—*Taxes.*

2. No change has taken place in the taxation, but the time is near at hand when the Act establishing the Tariff expires, and it will then probably undergo some modification.

II.—*Revenue and Expenditure.*

3. The following table shows the revenue and expenditure for the last three years :—

	Revenue.				Expenditure.
Years.	Imports.	Exports.	Other sources.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
1861	12,080	2,329	5,872	20,283	21,433
1862	12,783	2,585	6,924	22,292	21,371
1863	10,701	2,528	8,742	21,972	22,154

III.—*Imports and Exports.*

4. The following table shows the value of the imports for the last three years :—

Years.	Goods liable to specific duties.	Goods liable to ad valorem duties.	Goods admitted free of duty.	Total value of imports.
	£	£	£	£
1861	68,181	55,381	13,375	136,938
1862	95,777	56,521	14,572	166,872
1863	89,442	51,882	10,560	151,885

5. The following table shows the value of the exports during the last three years :—

Years.	Sugar.			Rum.		Molasses.			Tous les mois and Arrow-root	Salt.	Potatoes	Other produce, value in sterling.	Total value of Exports the produce of the island.	Total value of Exports, not the produce of the island.	Total value of all Exports sterling.
	Hhds.	Trs.	Brls.	Puns.	Hhds.	Puns.	Hhds.	Brls	lbs.	Brls.	Brls.				
												£	£	£	£
1861	8,651	225	5,478	1,240	18	3,127	8	183	25,540	8,752	233	167	145,933	12,291	158,224
1862	9,765	14	6,444	1,404	20	3,127	—	273	15,168	6,616	275	173	159,836	16,121	175,958
1863	10,58	175	7,359	1,045	16	3,032	2	148	69,848	10,666	441	743	159,152	16,553	175,686

IV.—*Form of Government.*

6. I beg to refer to my Report for 1860 for full information under this head, including the constitution of the Assembly and Council, the electoral franchise, and my views regarding the recent change effected in the Government by the establishment of a form of quasi Responsible Ministry.

7 It will be seen by the Blue Book that only 156 persons voted at the last election, at which 24 members were returned.

It will be seen also that in one parish two members were returned by a single voter.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

V.—*Legislation.*

8. The chief Acts passed during 1863 are as follows:—

1. An Act to make provision for the prepayment of letters, and for the more easily taking account of postage generally.
2. An Act for the punishment of persons deserting their wives or children.
3. An Act to consolidate and amend the laws providing medical attendance for the infant children, and to extend such medical attendance to others requiring the same.
4. An Act to establish an efficient police force.
5. An Act to make provision for the appointment of a police magistrate for the rural districts.

The last three of these Acts are simply modifications or extensions of Acts previously in force.

VI.—*Administration of Justice.*

9. The cumbrous, complicated, and expensive system of procedure in the Superior Court, on which I commented in my report for 1860, has happily ceased to exist; it has been replaced by the code contained in the Act to simplify and expedite the administration of justice.

10. The code has been in operation for some months, and I am assured by the Chief Justice and the Attorney-General, that though some of its provisions are of a novel character here, it has worked very easily and been attended with complete success. A striking illustration of the decrease it has effected in the expense of litigation was afforded a month ago, when a case, which was begun and therefore tried under the former law, was tried at the same session with one under the new code. Both were jury cases, with almost the same number of witnesses; the taxed costs of the former case were about 100*l.*, those of the latter 15*l.*

11. The new code will probably require some addition and modification in detail, but there seems no doubt that its main provisions are well suited to the circumstances of the island, and will ever remain on its Statute Book.

VII.—*Population.*

12. No fresh census of the population has been taken since my last report.

The population was then given as 24,303 souls. Since that period there has been a natural increase at the rate of 250 per annum, but on the other hand the population has been diminished by an emigration of about 200 to St. Croix and Crab island, which took place last year in consequence of scarcity of employment caused by the failure of the sugar crop.

13. Subjoined is an abstract of the births and deaths during 1863.

No. of Births.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Complexion.		
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	White.	Coloured.	Black.
1211	323	300	318	270	120	202	889

No. of Deaths.	Adults.		Under 14 and over 1 year.		1 year and under.		Complexion.		
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	White.	Coloured.	Black.
949	190	185	81	77	222	194	95	170	684

14. A too large mortality among infants continues to be observable, notwithstanding all the efforts of the Government to afford gratuitous medical attendance to women in childbed and their children.

The evils seem partly to arise from the propensity of the lower classes to employ ignorant midwives instead of competent medical men.

VIII.—*Agriculture.*

15. Referring to my former reports for more information on this head, I here give a return of the quantity of sugar exported during the last 13 years:—

Year.	Hogsheads.	Year.	Hogsheads.
1851 - - -	7,872	1858 - - -	9,540
1852 - - -	7,054	1859 - - -	7,734
1853 - - -	7,061	1860 - - -	9,404
1854 - - -	8,005	1861 - - -	9,486
1855 - - -	7,246	1862 - - -	10,700
1856 - - -	5,883	1863 - - -	11,545
1857 - - -	6,511		

16. It will be seen that the crop for 1863 was unusually large, and taking into account that the hogshead is considerably larger now than it was in former times, it is probable that the crop of last year is the largest which the Island ever yielded since it was planted.

17. I regret to say that, owing to the drought, unprecedented except in one case in the memory of man, which took place during the latter part of last year, the crop of the present year will not amount to much more than 6,000 hogsheads; even this quantity, however, shows the great improvement which has taken place in the agriculture of the island of late years, for I am informed that when a similar drought occurred many years ago, a single small vessel took away all the sugar produced in the most fertile part of the island.

IX.—*Education.*

18. Great change has been effected in the educational system of the island since 1860. At that period the Government aided education among the labouring classes by an annual grant of 500*l.*, to be distributed among the schools of the various religious bodies according to the number of pupils.

The schools were, however, subject to no proper inspection, owing to the smallness of the salary provided for an Inspector (100*l.*), and the consequent impossibility of filling the office. Moreover, there existed no means of education for the upper and middle classes, so that the youth of these classes whose parents could not afford to send them to Europe were growing up in ignorance.

19. To remedy these defects the following changes have been made with the aid of the Legislature:—

1. A grammar school has been established, the principal of which is ex officio Inspector of schools for the labouring classes.
2. Every schoolmaster has to undergo an examination as to his fitness for his duties. Those who obtain a first and second class certificate at the examination receive respectively an annual addition to their salary of 20*l.* and 10*l.*
3. To encourage the erection of proper school houses one-third of the amount of their cost is given by the Government.

20. The grammar school, in spite of some difficulties which beset its commencement, has latterly been established on a firm basis and has full success.

The plan of education adopted is suited to the circumstances of the place. Without neglecting the ancient classics great attention is paid to French and Spanish.

21. The following is a return of the schools receiving Government aid, with the average attendance during 1863.

Denomination.	No. of Schools.	Average Attendance.
Church of England -	9	461
Wesleyan - -	7	491
Moravian - -	6	444

22. In closing this brief report I think I may say that the island continues generally in a very prosperous condition; and the labouring population is steadily improving in morals and intelligence, for notwithstanding the very severe privations to which they were subjected by the recent droughts, they have conducted themselves as a whole in the most peaceful and orderly manner.

(Signed) BENJ. C. C. PINE.

St. Kitts, October 1, 1864.

NEVIS.

NEVIS.

No. 15.

No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 85.)

SIR, Leeward Islands, Antigua, June 21, 1864.

President Webbe to Governor Hill, No. 30, 14 June 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from the Acting President of Nevis, forwarding the Blue Book of that Colony for the year ended the 31st December 1863.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 15.

(No. 30.)

SIR, Queen's House, Nevis, June 14, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit three copies of the Blue Book for 1863.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE WEBBE,
President.

His Excellency Colonel Hill, C.B.,
Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 57.)

SIR, Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 20, 1864.

President Longden to Governor Hill, No. 15, 14 March 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from the President, forwarding the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year 1863.

2. I have little to add to Mr. Longden's Report; I agree with his views with respect to education, and I feel satisfied the Virgin Islands will improve politically and socially under his administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 16.

(No. 15.)

SIR, Tortola, March 14, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1863.

Revenue. 2. The revenue received in 1863 was 1,753*l.* 2*s.* 10¾*d.* against 2,013*l.* 13*s.* received in 1862, showing a decrease of 260*l.* 10*s.* 1¼*d.* Of this, the greater part, viz., 255*l.* 18*s.* 10½*d.*, was owing to a change in the time of bringing to account the assessed taxes, which were transferred to the account of 1864, leaving a net decrease on the other items of 4*l.* 11*s.* 2¾*d.* This result, in face of the loss which the Colony sustained by the abandonment of the copper mine at Virgin Gorda in 1862, is satisfactory.

Expenditure. 3. The expenditure of 1863 was 1,854*l.* 10*s.* 11½*d.*, being nearly the same as that of 1862.

Public Debt. 4. The public debt remains the same, but measures have just been instituted with a view to its composition and speedy liquidation.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Public works.

5. The only public works undertaken in 1863 were the restoration of the church and school house at Kingstown, carried out at a cost to the public of 54*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, and painting the wooden hospital to preserve it from decay, which cost 15*l.* 14*s.*

Legislation.

6. Three Ordinances passed in 1862 were published last year; one for facilitating the salt trade, one for establishing a system of compulsory vaccination, which has been carried into effect, and one providing temporarily for the want of duly qualified lawyers. The Ordinances passed and published in 1863 were,—

No. 1. Postage Ordinance.
No. 2. Educational Grant Ordinance.
No. 3. Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance.
No. 4. Pound Ordinance.
No. 5. Petty Sessions Amendment Ordinance.
No. 6. Repealing Ordinance.
No. 7. Tonnage Duty Supplemental Ordinance.
No. 8. Inquiries into Wrecks Ordinance. (This Ordinance is not yet brought into operation.)
No. 9. Criminal Jurisdiction Ordinance.
No. 10. Criminal Jurisdiction Ordinance (supplemental).

Of these, the most important to the Colony were the Educational Grant Ordinance, increasing the provision for public education; the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance, condensing into a short printed Act a mass of old laws which existed only in manuscript; and the Criminal Jurisdiction Ordinances, also consolidating old manuscript laws into a printed Act, and adopting therein the latest improvements in English criminal jurisdiction. Having had the honour already to explain the object and purport of each Ordinance, when I submitted it for your Excellency's approval, I will only now add that the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance especially has been found very useful during the ten months it has been in force.

Education.

7. There has been during the past year a very great increase in the means of primary education for the working classes, an increase which I hope will hereafter be productive of great benefit to the Colony. In my last annual report, accompanying the Blue Book for 1862, I dwelt strongly on the deficiency in the means of education provided, and on the absolute necessity for making great efforts to increase the number and efficiency of the schools. The Legislature increased the grant for education as much as our resources permitted, the increase taking effect from the 1st of January 1863. The Bishop of Antigua and the Superintendent of the Wesleyan Society here (the Rev. M. Edney) took a warm interest in the work. Schools were re-organized, efficient schoolmasters provided where necessary, and periodical examinations instituted. The numbers of children nominally on the school registers have been largely augmented, while the actual attendance has increased fourfold. It is too early yet to predict the result of this movement. So long as a knowledge of reading and writing is confined to one in a hundred of the population, or thereabouts, the result of education is, no doubt, to raise the unfortunate possessors of such exceptional knowledge to such a pitch of self-esteem as to make them averse to the use of the hoe or other honest labour, and in this they are too often encouraged by foolish parents. The general diffusion of education will cure this evil. The instruction given in the schools is of the most elementary kind. I do not think it just to the Colony to educate lads here at the public expense so as to fit them for clerks at St. Thomas'; if they desire this, they must educate themselves at their own expense. The colonial resources are too small to furnish the cost of a high-class school, nor is the community large enough to find adequate employment for highly educated lads. I hope and expect that the broad result of the spread of such education as we give, will be to diminish crime, and to train up a race of industrious God-fearing colonists.

Imports and exports.

8. The imports of 1863 amounted to 8,875*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, being an increase of 1,151*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* over those of last year. The exports of "colonial" produce in 1863 were 11,413*l.* 15*s.*, being nearly the same amount as the exports of last year, deducting the copper ore.

Criminals.

9. The return of gaols and prisoners is favourable. During the year the total number of committals was only 23; the greatest number of prisoners at any one time was nine, but for several months the number of prisoners averaged only three.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Governor Hill, C.B., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. R. LONGDEN,
President.

DOMINICA.

No. 17.

DOMINICA.

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 44.)

SIR, Leeward Islands, Antigua, June 13, 1864.

Lieutenant-Governor Price to Governor Hill, No. 44, 10 June 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of Dominica, forwarding the Blue Book of that Colony for the year ended the 31st December 1863.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 17.

(No. 44.)

SIR, Government House, Roseau, June 10, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Dominica for the year 1863.

2. The late period at which I have received it, and the necessity of its speedy transmission, preclude the possibility of my accompanying the Book with the usual report.

3. I must content myself with observing that the year 1863 brought with it considerable financial embarrassment, and that the public officers were only paid their Michaelmas and Christmas salaries in 1864, and then out of borrowed money. As I write, however, the Houses of Legislature are engaged in measures for the relief of the exchequer.

4. As regards legislation, the year was unusually fruitful of what I cannot but consider beneficent measures. Prominent among these stand Acts for regulating and amending the elective franchise, for taking a register of voters, and for amending the constitution of the Colony, all of which have received the Queen's approval.

5. I will not close this without remarking that the Road Commissioners have at my suggestion embarked seriously in the business of bridge building, and that the piers for a convenient bridge over the rapid Roseau river are now safe beyond the reach of any flood of usual character. The roads generally are also very greatly improved.

6. Last, but not least, the progress of education seems at length to be taking a decided start with a vastly improved machinery and under good guidance.

7. The behaviour of the bulk of the people in 1863 is worthy of mention as having been peaceable and admirable in every respect, when there was no little temptation to indulge in the vulgar and fruitless demonstrations which so often prevail when large constitutional measures are under discussion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. PRICE,
Lieut.-Governor.

His Excellency Colonel Hill, C.B.,
Governor-in-Chief, Antigua.

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

No. 18.

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor BARKLY to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(Separate.)

SIR, Mauritius, July 18, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Mauritius Blue Book for 1863, which has been recently completed by the Government printer.

2. As I did not reach the Colony till the end of November, my personal cognizance of the events of the year is necessarily limited; but I will endeavour, with the aid of information subsequently acquired, to pass in review the returns of which the volume is composed.

3. Those returns have not yet, I perceive, been classified according to the plan latterly adopted in the Australian colonies, and, though bulky, do not comprise many

of the statistical details furnished from thence. There is, indeed, no officer of this Government answering precisely to the Registrars-General of births, deaths, and marriages, who in Australia compile the chief part of the work; and it seems to be customary, in consequence, for the head of each department to supply a sort of résumé of its annual statistics, to be interwoven with the Governor's Despatch, which is thus swollen to somewhat unusual dimensions.

4. Before this time next year I hope to be able to assimilate the functions of the officer of the civil status more closely to those of a registrar of vital statistics; and, even if I cannot devolve on him the collection of commercial and agricultural returns, as in other colonies, to introduce a simple yet more comprehensive system of classification. Meanwhile I shall place such departmental reports as have reached me in an Appendix, and not confine my remarks on the returns to the numerical order in which they are bound up.

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. The increase in the duties on spirits and tobacco imposed in 1862 to meet the requirements of the interest and sinking fund on the first instalment (200,00*l.*) of the railway loan having proved equal to the estimate, the revenue of 1863 exceeded by about 26,000*l.* that of the previous year.

6. The expenditure was considerably smaller, owing mainly to accidental circumstances, and would have been less still but for payments on account of former arrears. The result will be found satisfactory in a financial point of view, the receipts of the year amounting to 518,278*l.*, against an outlay of only 482,524*l.* really pertaining to it, thus leaving a balance of 35,755*l.* at its credit.

7. Notwithstanding this apparent surplus, however, further taxation on imports to the extent of 43,648*l.* had to be proposed when the estimates for the present year were introduced into the Legislative Council, in order to make good the interest and sinking fund on the railway loan, which then amounted to 600,000*l.*

8. The additional duties were voted for one year only, in the hope that, ere the expiration of it, both lines of railway would be open and yielding an income sufficient to defray all payments connected with their cost. Though this will certainly not be the case, I trust the expectation will be realized during 1865, and that it will not be requisite to renew Ordinance No. 33 of 1863 for even longer than a second year.

9. Apart from the temporary pressure on its fiscal resources, occasioned by the conditions on which the Colony was permitted by the Lords of the Treasury to raise a loan of a million, and to embark 300,000*l.* of its own capital in railway undertakings, the financial position of Mauritius is a very sound one, as proved by its balance sheet, which shows 73,354*l.* cash in hand on 31st December last, as well as by the "statement of "assets and liabilities," which still leaves a comparative excess of no less than 209,745*l.* Among the former class, however, are included many items long since irrecoverable, so that the available surplus, irrespective of the railway investment, does not probably exceed 150,000*l.*

Statements of Assets, &c.

Local Revenues.

10. It is to be wished that the affairs of the municipality of Port Louis were as well managed and prosperous as those of the Colony; but, although in the statement furnished the receipts are brought nearly to an equality with the expenses, a closer examination shows that this was only by the issue of debentures for larger sums than were paid off former loans, and that, with an income of nearly 60,000*l.* a year, including endowments from the State of more than one-fourth that amount, the corporation is annually getting deeper and deeper into debt.

11. I will not undertake to say to what its total liabilities now amount, but its funded debt has risen to 73,000*l.*, and I regret to see that the claims of the Government for patients in the civil hospital, prison labour, road metal, &c. have again swelled up to 9,400*l.*, in spite of the arrangement insisted on by the late Governor, under which the corporation's share of the fines of the police court are applied in reduction of this debt.

12. This is the more unfortunate as the steps requisite for protecting its pecuniary interests place the Government in a constant state of apparent hostility towards the only popularly elected body yet established in the Colony.

13. Latterly, I am glad to add, an agitation for financial reform has sprung up in the bosom of the Municipal Council itself, which, it may be hoped, will lead to improvement. Should it prove abortive, it will become the imperative duty of the Legislature to interpose its authority, for the purpose not only of putting the claims of the State on

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

a proper footing, but of securing for the citizens of Port Louis the due and impartial collection of rates and taxes, the proper check upon expenditure, and a regular and effective audit of accounts.

Military Expenditure.

14. The total cost of the defences and garrison during the year was 137,500*l.*, of which about 31,000*l.* was defrayed by the Colony,—not a very large proportion, considering its wealth and general scale of expenditure, and justly susceptible, no doubt, of increase, as required by Her Majesty's Government.

15. It must be borne in mind, however, that Mauritius was taken possession of, not as a sugar-growing island, but for the protection of British trade in the eastern hemisphere, and that its advantages as a coaling station in the direct line to India and China render its retention of more essential importance than ever in case of another maritime war.

Civil Establishments.

16. The expenditure under this head amounted to 223,230*l.*, or about 2,000*l.* more than in 1862.

17. The list of *employés* is a very long one, and I have directed my attention, as enjoined on me, to the practicability of placing some branches of the service on a more economical footing. This is not easily to be done without impairing their efficiency; and though I hope to succeed to a certain extent, there will always be occasion for extraordinary outlay, as the Indian population requires special regulation and protection on the part of Government.

Public Works.

18. Though over 57,000*l.* was spent on works and buildings, no new structure of any importance seems to have been begun during the year. The lighthouse off Grand Port, however, as well as one or two less important works previously commenced, were carried to completion with the aid of the "Accumulated Balances" of former years. This abstinence from new undertakings cannot be attributed to the absence of any necessity for them, the deficiencies of Mauritius in respect to public edifices being very conspicuous, but must, I suppose, be ascribed solely to the diversion, already alluded to, to railway purposes of the greater part of these accumulations, hitherto looked to as the source from which many very essential works were to come.

19. Whatever the cause, I have never been in any British Possession where so little has been accomplished in this way, and so much remains to be done. It would almost seem as if architecture had been prohibited under our rule, for the buildings occupied by most of the public departments were erected by the French, generally with very different objects.

20. Thus, the Governor's usual residence was destined for a college; the barracks for a prison; the civil hospital for a barracks; the Protestant cathedral for a powder magazine; and the Coolie Orphan Asylum for a mill for the manufacture of gunpowder. Even the building recently adapted temporarily for the Central Railway terminus was in olden times a slave barracoon.

21. Of the Government offices which are of more modern date, I can only say that they resemble the sheds on a wharf more than anything else, and that the only wonder is how business can be conducted in such confined and ill-adapted premises.

22. Under such circumstances, the inconvenience resulting from the appropriation of this 300,000*l.* to the railways is severely felt; and I shall endeavour to submit a scheme for remedying it in some degree for the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

23. The state of the roads forms a pleasing contrast to that of other Government works. I have seldom travelled over better in any part of the world. About 38,000*l.* was laid out on them last year.

Railways.

Statement of actual Expenditure for 1863.

24. No return of the outlay on the construction of the Northern and Midland lines is given in the Blue Book; but I enclose a statement of the payments on account of them at home and in the Colony during 1863.

25. The aggregate expenditure will be found to be 324,806*l.*, against 251,107*l.* in 1862, scarcely so large an augmentation as might have been anticipated had the works been pushed forward with spirit by the contractors.

Imports and Exports.

26. The trade of the Colony seems to have been brisk throughout the year, partly owing to the enormous sugar crop of the previous season, much of which was shipped during the early part of it; partly to the great rise in the price of that commodity in Europe, which sustained the credit of the planters in spite of a prospective deficiency in the production of 1863-4.

27. That deficiency did not, indeed, exhibit itself in the shipments to 31st December, the crop being reckoned from 1st August to 31st July, so that the actual export somewhat exceeded that of the preceding year, viz.:—

	lbs.
In 1863 - - - -	274,548,951
In 1862 - - - -	268,162,351

the value, according to official estimate, being more than a quarter of a million sterling in excess, viz.:—

	£
In 1863 - - - -	2,494,556
In 1862 - - - -	2,232,249

28. As the value of other articles exported (excluding specie) remained nearly stationary, the total valuation of exports exceeded that of 1862 to a similar extent. viz.:—

	£
In 1863 - - - -	2,661,098
In 1862 - - - -	2,410,525
	250,573

29. The value of imports (excluding specie) increased in even greater proportion, having been—

	£
In 1863 - - - -	2,238,846
In 1862 - - - -	1,926,255
	312,591

30. The great bulk both of the import and export trade was carried on with Great Britain and her Possessions; the latter dividing it pretty equally with the Mother Country. In respect to imports, indeed, India ranks first; their value reaching 850,000*l.*, or one-third of the whole, thus showing the importance to that country of the demand to which emigration has given rise. Australia ranks fourth only in this respect, though second as to exports, taking sugar in larger proportion than her gold and corn are accepted in return.

31. It is a strong proof of the endurableness of national tastes in matters of food and clothing, that France still holds the third place as to imports, though she takes but an inconsiderable portion (about a ninth) of the produce of the island.

32. I am sorry to perceive that the trade between Mauritius and Madagascar does not make the progress at one time anticipated. On the contrary, although our imports, chiefly cattle and rice, rose in value from 70,000*l.* to over 100,000*l.*, the value of British manufactures, rum, &c., taken in return, declined from 57,700*l.* in 1862, to 22,600*l.*

33. The British Consul attributes this falling off to fresh political troubles and a bad rice harvest, so that I hope things will improve during the present year; but I am afraid it will be a long time before the government of the great African isle becomes settled, and its inhabitants at large, civilized enough to render commercial transactions with them of any real importance.

34. Mr. Pakenham having told me that the want of a circulating medium constituted one serious obstacle to traders from hence, I have written to suggest his applying to the Queen to declare British gold and silver coins a legal tender, and trust the application will be granted.

35. Whilst on this subject, I may refer to the statement of the amount of coin in circulation in Mauritius, contained in the return as to exchanges, money, weights, &c., in which it is evidently immensely overrated.

36. I am told that the total of 2,993,280*l.* sterling there given has been obtained by adding from year to year to some assumed base the imports of specie, and deducting

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

the exports, as declared at the Custom House; but as no duty is leviable, such entries, except perhaps in the case of the mail steamers, become mere matters of form; and it is readily conceivable that while banks and mercantile firms do not mind the extent of remittances received by them being known, they may prefer those they make remaining in uncertainty.

37. Moreover the sovereigns which come in freely every year from Australia to purchase sugar, and which, latterly, have been introduced in considerable number from England in connexion with the railway loan, are constantly at a premium of from 1 to 2 per cent. for exportation to India, whither, in spite of the banks, they are shipped by the Parsee and Arab traders of Port Louis, in payment for rice and grain, of the supply of which they have acquired almost a monopoly.

Memorandum of Computation of Coin.

38. From a computation made for me by one of the most experienced merchants of the place, it seems probable that the coin of all sorts in private hands would be fairly represented by the sum of 475,000*l.*, making, with 323,000*l.* held by the banks, and 180,000*l.* by the Government and Commissioners of Currency, a total of about *one* million instead of the *three* estimated in the Blue Book, which will next year be corrected conformably.

39. As Government notes to the amount of 340,000*l.* are also outstanding, half in the hands of the public, half in the banks, the proportion of cash would even, on this computation, be very large, averaging 4*l.* to 5*l.* per head, in a population almost entirely of the labouring class.

40. The amount of coin, both gold and silver, annually converted into rings, bangles, and other ornaments must likewise be enormous.

Shipping.

41. No remarkable movement took place in shipping. About 300,000 tons arrived, laden or in ballast, and a nearly similar quantity departed.

42. The imports being larger than in 1862, the number of vessels entered inwards with cargoes exceeded by 106, and their tonnage by 40,176, those of the preceding year. On the other hand, as the quantity of sugar exported remained stationary, the number and tonnage of vessels cleared with cargoes was about the same, viz.,—

	Vessels.	Tons.
In 1863 - - -	556	206,814
In 1862 - - -	535	212,298

43. In regard to nationality, British and (strange to say, notwithstanding the war) American tonnage considerably increased, whilst French diminished over 10 per cent. Their relative proportions may be roundly stated as—

British, $\frac{8}{12}$.
French, $\frac{2}{12}$.
American, $\frac{1}{12}$.

the remaining $\frac{1}{12}$ comprising the flags of Denmark, Sweden, Holland, the Hanse Towns, and half-a-dozen other European countries.

44. Of the British, colonial vessels (apparently for the first time distinguished) constituted nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ths, or over 80,000 tons.

Immigration.

Acting Protector's Report of 26 April 1864 (not printed).

45. The enclosed report of the Acting Protector furnishes the usual particulars on this subject.

46. The number of immigrants introduced from India was far smaller than for several years previous, being little over five thousand souls; whereas in 1862 it was nearly ten thousand; in 1861 and 1860, fourteen thousand each; and in 1859 no less than forty-four thousand.

47. Of course, so many immigrants as at first are not now required by the planters; but it will be seen that the adult males who arrived (3,228) were scarcely more than a third of those applied for, and even insufficient, indeed, to supply the vacancies occasioned by deaths and returns to India; the Indian population of the Colony having decreased from 229,361 to 228,979 in the year.

48. The diminution of emigration occurred at each of the three Presidencies, and is attributed by the agents to scarcity of tonnage; competition for labour, both internal and on account of the French and British Colonies; and, in the case of Madras, to stringent orders from the Government prohibiting the embarkation of any emigrant not

recruited in the particular district to which he belonged. A similar restriction has since been embodied, with several others, in the new Emigration Act passed by the Governor-General in Council; and I very much fear that if, as anticipated, the present reduced emigration to Mauritius is still further diminished by them, the consequences will be most serious to the prosperity of the Colony.

49. The moment, indeed, is a critical one to the planters, for the immigrants introduced in 1859, who form, as will be perceived, one-fifth of the whole Indian population, will from time to time in the course of the present year complete their five years of industrial residence, and become entitled to return to India.

50. It is satisfactory to me to be able to report that the number who have as yet elected to leave is not formidable, and that many are daily entering into renewed engagements.

51. The immigration was conducted in a satisfactory manner in all respects during the past year. Only one ship had to be placed in quarantine on arrival, and one single death was all that took place during her detention at Flat Island, for cholera. The mortality on the voyage likewise diminished from 1·48 per cent. to 0·75, or nearly a half.

52. The per-centage of females to males landed was 43·27 against 32·97 in 1862.

53. Within the Colony the relations of employers and labourers were not quite so amicable as could be desired, the number of complaints preferred by the former before the stipendiary magistrates having risen as high as 14,303, chiefly for unlawful absence from work and desertion. On the other hand, the charges brought by the latter, chiefly for non-payment of wages or non-delivery of discharges, were 6,164, a considerable diminution on the previous year, but enough to prove that the Indian has no disposition to suffer what he deems injustice, and that he enjoys ready access to the protection of the law.

54. Looking to the numerous causes of misunderstanding likely to arise between individuals of various races, habits, and languages, the result is, probably, not widely different from what might be anticipated; but I have already taken steps to check the systematic desertion which was going on, and I hope, by causing the Protector to visit each plantation occasionally, to guard against abuses on the other side, in withholding tickets, &c.

Population.

55. Allowing for increase by Indian immigration and for decrease through departure of immigrants and excess of deaths over births, the number of inhabitants, excluding the dependencies, the garrison, and the shipping, is estimated to have been 323,254 on 31st December last, as against 310,050 at the census of 9th April 1861.

56. The comparative paucity of births is attributable, it need hardly be explained, to the disproportion of the sexes among the Indian immigrants, which, though annually diminishing, as already shown, will not disappear for many years, nor cease to exhibit its effects on the population returns for an entire generation.

57. The number of deaths was smaller than usual, the season having been healthy, and no epidemic having prevailed; but it was not far short of 4 per cent. on the total population, a very heavy rate even in the tropics.

58. On the condition of this population in a religious and moral point of view some light is thrown by the Blue Book returns, though much is left in obscurity.

Ecclesiastical Return.

59. The contributions granted by the State towards the maintenance of the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches are expended, for the most part, on behalf of those of English and French extraction respectively, some provision being made by both establishments for the remnant of the emancipated negroes, but they confer little benefit on the great mass of the population of Indian origin, which, saving a few thousand Mahometans, is sunk in the most debasing idolatry.

60. A fairer field for the labours of Christian missionaries is nowhere presented, there being little danger of arousing caste prejudices, which the voyage hither and residence in a strange land have done much to mitigate already.

61. Advantage is being to some extent taken of the opening. There are, I believe, some few baptized Coolies in most Roman Catholic congregations; and there is one priest at least of that church set apart for their conversion.

62. The Church of England likewise includes among her ministers three capable of uniting with their other duties the holding services in Hindustani, Bengali, and Tamul in Port Louis, and the inculcation of religious truth by the aid of native catechists in the rural districts.

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

Education.

63. If the impediments to drawing the Indian population into churches are great, those which prevent their children from participating in secular instruction in schools are scarcely less so.

64. The difficulties, indeed, surrounding the whole question of education in this Colony are, if not insuperable, of a nature only to be overcome slowly and by the greatest patience and perseverance.

65. The want of a common language as a medium of imparting and receiving knowledge is of course one of the most material of them. There is scarcely a plantation on which the labourers do not come from different parts of India; and even if schools for their exclusive benefit be established, alphabets in two or three characters have to be taught, and more masters than one are required to teach them.

66. In mixed schools it is worse still, as neither English nor French can be learnt except through the Creole, a jargon which, though made up of various tongues, has the poorest possible vocabulary.

67. In reporting recently on the establishment of special Indian schools I mentioned that as yet they numbered little over 500 scholars, and though, doubtless, a sprinkling of Indian children, especially of those born in the Colony, and who have picked up thus a little Creole, is to be found in the public and grant-in-aid schools, the proportion receiving education out of at least 20,000 fit for it must be very small.

68. Even as regards the general population the returns strike me, on coming from Australia, where one in eight are receiving instruction, as very unsatisfactory, for the total of all classes on the roll at the end of last year was,—

At Government schools - -	- 2,277
At Grant-in-Aid schools - -	- 2,234
Total -	- 4,511

69. I am bound to add, however, that this is a slight increase on the numbers of the previous year, and that much more interest is manifested in the progress of education than was formerly the case.

70. The Royal College, the principal educational institution of the Colony, is, I am happy to say, regaining its members, 242 pupils being on its books, and I trust the unfortunate disputes which arose in regard to it will not be revived.

Savings Banks.

71. I am sorry that I cannot quote the usual information as to the progress of the Government Savings Banks, as the extensive and widely ramified frauds perpetrated by the late acting manager O'Toole, who is now undergoing the punishment due to his crimes, have prevented the treasurer from submitting his annual report on the subject.

Charitable Institutions.

72. The return under this head is meagre in the extreme, embracing little more than a list, by no means complete, of institutions supported by the Government, the municipality, and charitable contributions, with a statement of the number of their inmates on 31st December last.

73. Of these, kept up principally by the State, the Orphan Asylum at Powder Mills, where 253 children, mostly of Indian parentage, are taken care of and carefully trained to industrial pursuits, deserves first mention. It is an admirable institution, and reflects honour on the late Sir William Stevenson, by whom it was founded, as well as the highest credit on the Rev. Mr. Ansorge, under whom it has from the commencement been carried on.

74. The civil hospital of Port Louis, though ill situated, is likewise a well-managed and creditable establishment, as I am glad to find is admitted in the valuable memorandum on colonial hospitals and lunatic asylums forwarded with your Circular Despatch of 6th April last.

75. The objections to the site are insurmountable, and funds for the erection of a new hospital in a suitable one are not readily procurable, for reasons already alluded to. The only other defects noted in the memorandum are the want of a resident medical officer restricted from private practice, and the absence of any regular system of visitation by superior and independent authority. As regards the first, I have, as you are aware, recently made application, after failing to procure, either on the spot or in India, any

one willing to accept the situation on these terms, for a properly qualified surgeon apothecary from home. As to the second, I cannot but think that some misapprehension exists, since the whole sanitary arrangements of this Colony are under the supervision of a "chief medical officer," who, as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors-General of military hospitals, must be considered superior to and independent of any colonial doctor. I doubt whether any better system than this could be devised; and feel sure, at any rate, that no unpaid board would be half as active or efficient as the present chief officer, Dr. Gordon.

76. I enclose the very able report for the past year of Dr. Beaugéard, the surgeon in charge of the civil hospital, which will be found to contain much interesting information on some points, such as the comparative mortality in European and tropical hospitals, on which sufficient allowance does not appear to be made in the memorandum referred to, all the suggestions of which will, however, be carefully attended to in this Colony. Dr Beaugéard's Report of May 9, 1864.

77. The number of cases treated during 1863 was 2,957, the number of deaths 456, giving a ratio of 154·3 per 1,000 as against 197·6 in 1862, when cholera to some extent existed.

78. I will only add that the improvements in ventilation recommended by Dr. Beaugéard were at once ordered to be effected.

79. The annual report of the superintendent of the lunatic asylum is also enclosed, and will be found on the whole satisfactory, though I do not myself consider this establishment on a par with the hospital. Its results may be judged of from a return of the admissions, discharges, and deaths for the past 10 years inserted in the Blue Book. Dr. Powell of 2/3/64.

80. The Government dispensaries in Port Louis and Mahébourg are useful institutions, and I believe that the municipal almshouse near the former city, though complained of by the ratepayers as too costly, is conducted on humane and liberal principles.

81. Of the various charitable institutions connected with the Roman Catholic Church I can say little of my own knowledge, but they are almost all under the charge of Sisters of Charity, whose self-denying zeal and benevolence is too well known in all countries to need eulogium, and the only one I have yet visited, an infirmary and orphanage near Pamplemousses, was a model of cleanliness and propriety in every respect.

Gaols and Prisons.

82. A return of diseases treated in the district prison hospitals is given among those of a miscellaneous character. Their sanitary state is reported as satisfactory, notwithstanding the prevalence of "Bombay fever" in some of them; but the number of deaths, 188, appears large.

83. The usual forms as to prisoners are also filled in, but it is unnecessary for me to cite their figures at any length, as the Procureur General has been good enough, according to custom, to furnish a* report in elucidation.

* Not printed.

84. The total accommodation in all the gaols of the Colony is represented to be fit for 1,481 prisoners, which is certainly beyond the mark, and as the average number in confinement during last year was over 1,800 they were, unquestionably, overcrowded.

85. Mr. Dickson's remarks refer chiefly to the prison of Port Louis, which is the fullest of all, and I need hardly say I entirely concur in his views as to the necessity of providing a better and more spacious locality, though I do not regard the immediate vicinity of Port Louis as presenting the same advantages for the general penitentiary which I hope, as soon as funds are forthcoming, to erect at a place on the sea-coast some eight or nine miles distant, suggested by the Surveyor-General.

86. In the meantime, the step I have already taken for establishing a separate depôt for vagrants and other Indians sentenced by the stipendiary magistrates for minor offences has relieved the gaols of about 300 prisoners.

Crime.

87. I trust, too, that the alarming and well-nigh inexplicable increase of crime of all descriptions which manifested itself in 1863, and constituted a main cause of the overcrowding, may be repressed by vigorous measures; and it is encouraging to learn from Mr. Dickson's report on this part of the subject that such a result is indicated by a decline in cases for prosecution during the first six months of 1864.

88. It will be seen that the number of persons tried before the Supreme Court in 1863 (199) was nearly three times as great as in any of the four preceding years, the number of convictions (136) being in the same proportion, and as crimes of violence formed nearly half the number, the absolute necessity for a suitable place for carrying out reformatory discipline amongst two to three hundred prisoners is apparent.

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

89. Even when relieved of both vagrants and felons the existing prison accommodation will, I fear, prove not more than adequate for the large number of offenders sentenced by the District Courts.

Legislation.

90. The third report supplied by the Procureur-General regards the legislation of the past year, which, pursuant to the form of Government established in Mauritius, is prepared and carried through almost entirely under the auspices of that officer.

91. For explanation as to the objects and intention of the chief Ordinances passed, I must refer to Mr. Dickson's memoranda upon each of them. None of them seem of any great importance, except, perhaps, No. 36, "to amend the law as to the transmission "and mortgaging of immoveable property," which is generally regarded as effecting valuable reforms in the "Code Civile."

The Dependencies.

92. Of the Dependencies I will say nothing, having already transmitted the Blue Book of the Seychelles, as sent to me by the Civil Commissioner, and not having yet been enabled to acquire any information of value as to the less important groups.

General Remarks.

93. I do not wish to extend this already lengthy despatch by any superfluous comments, but I cannot refrain from describing the first impression produced on my mind by my introduction to Mauritius.

94. It is one, in the main, of unbounded surprise and admiration. That such a mere speck on the ocean should have become the most prosperous and important of the sugar-growing colonies of the British Crown,—that an area of scarce four hundred thousand acres should, through the enterprise and industry of its inhabitants, annually export from two to three million pounds' worth of produce, are facts well worthy of attention.

95. Undoubtedly there is a darker side to the picture.

There cannot but be cause for anxiety as to the fortunes of any country which depends solely on a single staple, and that anxiety must be heightened where that staple is produced, not by the labour of a settled population, but by strangers and sojourners, whose aid may, under certain circumstances, be withdrawn.

96. The cultivation of the sugar cane is also peculiarly exposed here to injury from hurricanes, as well as from insect plagues, by one of which (the borer) it has recently been ravaged, whilst by another (the pouâ pache blanche) the crop of 1865 is, at this very moment, menaced with destruction.

97. There are not wanting, likewise, discordant elements in the social and political condition of the island. Nevertheless, I regard the position of Mauritius as sound and satisfactory, and I am sanguine that it will pass through any trials that may be in store, if not unscathed, at least without serious permanent injury.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

STATEMENT of the APPROXIMATE AMOUNT of the REAL ASSETS and LIABILITIES of the Mauritius Government on the 31st December 1863, made with reference to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities at that Date.

ASSETS.	£ s. d.	Real. £ s. d.	Doubtful. £ s. 6.	Total. £ s. d.
BALANCES, CASH.				
In Treasury	3,990 7 8¼			
In Commercial Bank	45,191 12 11½			
In Oriental Bank	39,106 3 10¾			
		88,288 4 6½	- - -	88,288 4 6½
COMMISSIONERS OF THE CURRENCY.	£ s. d.			
Specie in hand	177,599 2 6			
Invested in 3 per cent. Consols	163,734 12 7			
		341,333 15 1	- - -	341,333 15 1
BALANCES OF ACCOUNT.				
Her Majesty's Navy Board		- - -	2,355 9 0	2,355 9 0
„ Treasury		- - -	3,380 18 7¾	3,380 18 7¾
Emigration agents in India		3,037 17 7	- - -	3,037 17 7
Churches { Flacq		- - -	137 14 3¾	137 14 3¾
Churches { Rivière du Rempart		587 16 0½	- - -	587 16 0½
Poor Relief Committee, Pamplemousses		528 18 7½	- - -	528 18 7½
Colonial agents, London, invested in 3 per cent. Consols		74,215 15 1	- - -	74,215 15 1
Government of Van Diemen's Land		- - -	148 0 0	148 0 0
Due by sundry individuals (T. Hook & Co.)		- - -	10,751 15 3¾	10,751 15 3¾
ARREARS OF REVENUE (Internal Revenue Department).				
Direct taxes		1,004 19 2¼	2,168 0 0	3,172 19 2¼
Indirect taxes		32 13 10	4,346 14 3¼	4,379 8 1¼
Registration and Mortgage Department		2,000 0 0	8,068 4 8¼	10,068 4 8¼
Municipal Corporation on account of hospital dues and prison labour		6,747 9 4½	- - -	6,747 9 4½
Police hospital expenses		- - -	9,454 3 11¼	9,454 3 11¼
ADVANCES OUTSTANDING.				
Parochial assembly, Pamplemousses		500 0 0	- - -	500 0 0
Bois Rouge Canal		- - -	715 9 6¾	715 9 6¾
Mercantile bills		- - -	1,008 14 7¼	1,008 14 7¼
Immigration Committee and Free Labour Association in 1840		- - -	3,949 17 4¾	3,949 17 4¾
Royal College, under Ordinances Nos. 6 of 1839 and 9 of 1841		- - -	12,930 16 9½	12,930 16 9½
Miscellaneous		1,196 10 8½	1,123 19 0	2,320 9 8½
LOANS.				
From Government Savings' Bank		143,434 16 9¾	- - -	143,434 16 9¾
„ Curatelle Funds		27,077 8 1	- - -	27,077 8 1
To Municipal Corporation		15,877 15 0	- - -	15,877 15 0
„ planters in 1830		4,867 1 3¼	2,278 4 8½	7,145 5 11¾
RECAPITULATION.	£ s. d.	£710,731 1 2¾	62,818 2 2¾	773,549 3 5½
Real assets	710,731 1 2¾			
Doubtful assets	62,818 2 2¾			
Total	£773,549 3 5½			

LIABILITIES.	Real. £ s. 6.	Doubtful. £ s. d.	Total. £ s. d.
Government notes issued between 1812 and 1830	- - -	4,930 16 6	4,930 16 6
Commissioners of the Currency, notes in circulation	336,452 10 0	- - -	336,452 10 0
Balance of account due to the Government of India	8,223 5 1½	- - -	8,223 5 1½
„ „ colonial agents, London	8,754 14 2	- - -	8,754 14 2
Arrears of expenditure of sub-agent at Corringhy	200 0 0	- - -	200 0 0
SPECIAL IMPOSTS.			
Churches	2,956 1 6½	- - -	2,956 1 6½
Poor Relief Committees	342 9 7½	- - -	342 9 7½
DEPOSITS.			
Curatelle	28,363 11 9¾	- - -	28,363 11 9¾
Savings' Bank	142,779 13 11	- - -	142,779 13 11
Master of Supreme Court	14,552 4 4	- - -	14,552 4 4
Registrar of Supreme Court	4,250 19 0¼	- - -	4,250 19 0¼
District clerks	561 19 0¼	- - -	561 19 0¼
District cashiers	1,942 4 10¾	- - -	1,942 4 10¾
Official Assignee in Bankruptcy	4,643 8 4¼	- - -	4,643 8 4¼
Opposition fund	567 11 7½	- - -	567 11 7½
Pointe aux Pimento road	630 18 6	- - -	630 18 6
Receiver of Registration Dues	607 11 5	- - -	607 11 5
Grand Port road	557 10 0½	- - -	557 10 0½
Roche Bois branch road	741 8 4¼	- - -	741 8 4¼
Savanna road	810 15 10½	- - -	810 15 10½
Unclaimed dividends in Bankruptcy	383 6 9	- - -	383 6 9
Unclaimed goods	515 16 11¾	- - -	515 16 11¾
Stipendiary Magistrates	516 14 2½	- - -	516 14 2½
Miscellaneous	754 7 5¼	- - -	754 7 5¼
Protector of Emigrants	550 14 2¾	- - -	550 14 2¾
Registrar of Vice-Admiralty Court	213 1 9¼	- - -	213 1 9¼
RECAPITULATION.	£ s. d.		
Approximate amount of real liabilities	560,872 19 0		
Approximate amount of doubtful liabilities	4,930 16 6		
	£565,803 15 6		
Approximate amount of real assets	710,731 1 2¾		
Approximate amount of real liabilities	560,872 19 0		
Approximate excess of real assets over real liabilities	£149,858 2 2¾		
	£560,872 19 0	4,930 16 6	565,803 15 6

Treasury Office, 19th July, 1864.

C. BARCLAY, Acting Treasurer.

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

ASSETS.	£	£
Commission of Currency, specie in hand, and investments	341,334	
Loans from savings' bank	143,435	
Do. Curatelle	27,077	
	511,846	
	507,597	
ence	4,249	

LIABILITIES.	£	£
Commission of Currency notes in circulation	336,453	
Deposits in savings' bank	142,780	
Do. Curatelle	28,364	
		507,597
	145,609	
	4,249	
	£149,858	

STATEMENT of the APPROXIMATE AMOUNT of the REAL ASSETS and LIABILITIES of the MAURITIUS GOVERNMENT on the 31st December 1864.

ASSETS.	£	£
Balances Cash.		
In Treasury	3,990	
In Commercial Bank	45,192	
In Oriental Bank	39,106	
In hands of Colonial agents, London	74,216	
		162,504
Balances of Account.		
Emigration agents in India	3,038	
Churches	588	
Poor Relief Committee, Pamplemousses	529	
		4,155
Arrears of Revenue.		
Internal Revenue Department	1,038	
Registration and Mortgage do.	2,000	
Municipal corporation, hospital dues, &c.	6,747	
		9,785
Advances Outstanding.		
Parochial Assembly, Pamplemousses	500	
Miscellaneous	1,197	
		1,697
Loans.		
To Municipal Corporation	15,878	
To Planters in 1830	4,867	
		20,745
Total		£198,886

LIABILITIES.	£	£
Balances of Account.		
Due to Government of India	8,223	
Due to Colonial agents, London	8,755	
Arrears, expenditure of sub-agent at Corringhy	200	
		17,178
Special Imposts.		
Churches	2,956	
Poor Relief Committees	342	
		3,298
Deposits.		
Master of Supreme Court	14,552	
Registrar do.	4,251	
District clerks	562	
Do. cashiers	1,942	
Official Assignee in Bankruptcy	4,643	
Opposition fund	568	
Pointe-aux-Pimento road	631	
Receiver of Registration Dues	608	
Grand Port road	558	
Roche Bois branch roads	741	
Savanne road	811	
Unclaimed dividends in bankruptcy	383	
Unclaimed goods	516	
Stipendiary Magistrates	517	
Protector of Emigrants	551	
Registrar of Vice-Admiralty Court	213	
Miscellaneous	754	
		32,801
Estimated balance on 31st Dec. 1863		145,609
Total		198,886

(Signed) C. BARCLAY,
Acting Treasurer.

Treasury, Mauritius, 19th July 1864.

STATEMENT of the ACTUAL EXPENDITURE on the RAILWAYS during 1863, both in London and in the Colony.

EXPENDITURE IN ENGLAND.	£	s.	d.
General Charges.			
Salaries	2,688	17	9
Drawings and plans	1,263	4	9
Renting stationery	220	11	5
Brokerage and commission	2,121	17	8
Interest, remission, and other charges	330	18	6
	£6,625	10	1
Contractors for Plant and Material.			
Rails	8,927	12	4
Chairs	11,960	9	1
Fish plates	181	15	3

EXPENDITURE IN MAURITIUS.	£	s.	d.
Establishments.			
Provisional salaries	8,866	8	0
Allowances	1,326	4	2
Contingencies	1,519	5	7½
	£11,711	17	9½
	£	s.	d.
Importation of labour (North line)	13,082	0	6
Work done do.	74,282	17	6½
Do. (Midland)	43,530	13	6
Management (North line)	4,000	0	0

EXPENDITURE IN ENGLAND—*cont.*

	£	s.	d.
Sleepers	18,163	19	0
Wook keys	1,688	2	2
Bridge work	14,553	12	10
Machinery	4,014	9	3
Switches and crossings	2,203	10	8
Locomotive engines and tenders	23,200	0	0
Ballast wagons	2,240	0	0
Carriages, pans, and goods wagons	18,280	0	0
	£105,413	10	7
Total expended in England	£112,039	0	8

EXPENDITURE IN MAURITIUS—*cont.*

	£	s.	d.
Management (Midland)	4,000	0	0
Land compensation (North line)	2,300	0	0
Road diversions do.	2,379	3	9
Stations, sidings, &c. do.	6,490	1	10¾
Workshops	344	3	4½
Purchase of timber	3,767	18	7
Town line	3,254	11	5
Central station	134	11	6¼
	£157,566	2	1
Purchase of land (North and Midland lines)	34,815	14	9½
Interest on land do.	1,242	4	7
Special interest paid to contractors	6	7	4½
Colonial agents, loss on remittances	7,425	0	0
	£43,489	6	8¾
Total expenditure in Mauritius	212,767	6	7¼
Total expended in England	112,039	0	8
Grand Total	£324,806	7	3¼

Audit Office, July 19, 1864.

(Signed) EDWARD NEWTON,
Acting Auditor General.

COMPUTATION of the AMOUNT of COIN of all sorts in private hands in MAURITIUS.

1. The quantity of specie beyond that with the banks can only be guessed at.

2. There are in the island shops to the number of 3,307, and on an average they may have 3*l.* in coin. There is a great scarcity of small coin; the bulk of all transactions is in notes. 10,000*l.* may, however, be taken as the coin in the shops.

3. The general population is about 75,000, counting five persons to a family. This would give 15,000 householders, and on an average they may have 1*l.* in coin; this estimate would give 15,000*l.*

4. The Indian population may be taken at 160,000 men, without women or children, and leaving on one side the women, children, and half the men, as having nothing, the other half of the Indian population may have at the average 6*l.* each, not as currency, but mostly hoarded; say

80,000 men at 6*l.*	£480,000
Less deposited in the savings' banks	30,000
Total	£450,000

5. With regard to the deposit made by the Indian population in the savings' bank, according to the report on that institution for 1862, the number of this class of depositors was 1,155, the amount of deposits 27,105*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*, and averaging for each depositor 23*l.* 9*s.* 4¼*d.*

6. The allowance of 1*l.*, or 5 dollars in coin, for each household, is said to be large, but as the internal revenue department receive about 50,000*l.* annually in coin, it can scarcely be less, unless the coin finds its way very quickly back to the banks when issued by them for payment of wages.

7. The foregoing estimate would give the coin held by the public at 475,000*l.*, and that held by the banks, being taken at 350,000*l.*, in all 825,000*l.*

REPORT OF THE CIVIL HOSPITAL, PORT LOUIS, FOR THE YEAR 1863.

SIR, Civil Hospital, Port Louis, May 9, 1864.

1.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for his Excellency the Governor's consideration, the following report on the Civil Hospital of Port Louis for the year 1863; and in the annexed table are shown, at one glance, the number of patients admitted and treated, and the results of treatment:—

Remained in 1862	165
Admitted in 1863	2,792
Discharged	2,368
Died	456
Remaining	133

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

2.—Number of Admissions.

With regard to the admissions into the Civil Hospital, the year 1863 has been remarkable in one particular, namely, the diminution in the number of Indian patients received into the establishment, that diminution amounting to 564, when a comparison is established with the preceding year. The lesser number of natives (*i.e.* ex-apprentices) admitted, though evident, is not so worthy of notice, for it is a well-established fact that that portion of the Mauritian community is dwindling to nothing, and their particular race becoming gradually extinct. Nay, such diminution in their number of admissions would have been still more striking had I not on mere scientific grounds classified among them coloured natives of North America or of the West Indian islands, on account of identity of constitution.

To account for the difference in the number of Indians admitted is not a much more difficult task. To an improved sanitary condition of the whole island, from disappearance of Asiatic cholera, may be partly attributed the diminution noticed above. Among the other causes which may have been in action to produce the result in question may be mentioned the following two:—in the first place, the municipal corporation have directed the by far greater number of their sick to their own hospital, St. Mary's;—in the second, the almost complete suspension of Indian immigration has considerably reduced the number of our Indian admissions, new immigrants at one time forming no inconsiderable item among these.

The following comparative table of admissions, classified under the heads of the different classes of diseases, will show where increase or decrease took place during the course of last year:—

Classes of Diseases.	Year.	
	1862.	1863.
Miasmatic diseases	1,820	1,182
Enthetic, dictic, and parisitic diseases	380	373
Diathetic and tubercular diseases	178	201
Diseases of the nervous system	124	112
Do. circulatory system	6	27
Do. respiratory system	83	116
Do. digestive system	189	148
Do. urinary system	30	43
Local diseases	231	223
Developmental diseases	30	43
Violent deaths or diseases	339	324
Total	3,410	2,792

3.—Ratio of Mortality.

If, however, in some respects, the present report, as far as regards the number of patients, is less satisfactory than the preceding, I think it will be considered more than compensatory to notice the diminished ratio of mortality which has been attained. The comparison in this particular with the preceding year is rendered more striking by the accompanying statement showing the results of treatment:—

Years.	General Death Rate per 1,000.	European Death Rate per 1,000.	Native Death Rate per 1,000.	Indian Death Rate per 1,000.
1862	197·6	65·4	232·1	233·4
1863	154·3	49·2	156·5	195·4

Such a difference is the more satisfactory, as the mere disappearance of spasmodic cholera, from the returns of the year 1863, is not sufficient to account for it, that deadly scourge having been to a certain extent replaced, in its destructive work, by the continued prevalence of bilious remittent fever. Moreover, the very nature of the mortality which took place in the Establishment shows that the physicians of the Civil Hospital have to contend against disadvantages which are seldom met with, in such continued recurrence and in an equal degree, in other similar institutions, and with regard to which I cannot help offering the following observations:

Remarks have been passed on the high rate of mortality in the Civil Hospital, and in spite of explanations already brought forward in Dr. Ayre's Report for the Year 1860, and in the Report for 1862, it appears that either those explanations have been insufficient or misunderstood. In either case it is not unimportant to put that question to rest by entering fully into the matter once for all.

In any hospital a high rate of mortality may be due to several causes which have their origin either within its walls or without.

In the first instance, the building itself, together with its situation, may be more or less appropriate to its purpose, and thus influence, in a material degree, the health of its inmates. Our hospital, situated as it is, does not exactly fulfil all the desirable requisites it is intended for; and to this topic, at the latter end of this Report, I shall have occasion to revert more at length. Epidemics arising within the walls of the hospital itself, such as hospital gangrene or puerperal fever, lead to the same result; but such occurrences we have not had in any degree occasion to deplore during these last years.

In the second case may be mentioned the influx of a large number of patients, struck down by disease, and admitted with, what I may call, rotten constitutions, in circumstances highly detrimental to them. Of this we had examples when the liberated Africans of the ships *Manuella* and *Sidon* were received into this hospital during the years 1860 and 1861. The prevalence also of epidemics of a deadly character, or of endemic diseases, not the less annually fatal, is next to be taken into consideration. Of the action of the former, during the preceding years, no one can doubt who remembers the presence amongst us of spasmodic cholera and bilious remittent fever; the influence of the latter will be established beyond all doubt by our remarks on dysentery, phthisis, and the diseases of the liver and the kidneys.

But foremost of all, and pregnant with reproach, not to the hospital itself or its internal organization and medical service, but to the population in general, are the carelessness and delay with which patients are sent to us.

I have been at the trouble to make out a classified return of those cases which ended fatally within three days after their admission into hospital; and out of a total number of "456" deaths, we find that "49" took place within 24 hours from the time of admittance (some patients dying within a few minutes); 59 within two days, and 32 before the end of the third day; making in all a total number of "140," or nearly one third of the whole mortality.

Diseases.	Died		
	Within 24 hours.	Before the end of the 2d day.	Before the end of the 3d day.
Accidents	4	2	—
Apoplexy	2	2	1
Atrophia (marasmus)	—	—	1
Cancer	1	—	—
Cholera (Sporadic)	—	1	—
Delirium tremens	—	1	—
Diarrhœa	1	1	—
Dysentery, acute	—	5	5
Do. chronic	6	3	2
Do. with abscesses in the liver	—	2	—
Empyema	1	—	—
Erysipelas (with peritonitis)	—	1	—
Fever, typhus and typhoid	1	2	—
Do. bilious remittent	12	16	10
Do. intermittent	—	—	1
Liver, inflammation of the (with abscesses)	1	—	—
Do. chronic inflammation	—	2	—
Heart (valvular diseases of the)	2	1	1
Hydrophobia	1	1	—
Hernia, strangulated (operation)	—	—	1
Ictus solis	1	—	—
Kidneys, diseases of the	2	3	1
Morbus coxœ	—	1	—
Pericarditis	—	1	—
Peritonitis	—	1	—
Phthisis	8	6	6
Pleuro-pneumonia	1	1	—
Pneumonia	3	6	2
Tetanus	2	—	1
Total	49	59	32

That some of the diseases, as seen in the above table, were of such nature as to be very possibly fatal within a very short period, either from their virulence or otherwise, I am ready to assent to; but that essentially chronic ailments, as by far the greatest number in that table show themselves to be, should terminate in death within the first, second, or third day of admission is a fact which has its explanation only in the lateness of the period at which patients are conveyed to us.

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

With regard besides to the Indians, any one acquainted with that peculiarity of constitution which in them reduces to such a low degree of power vital resistance against morbid action must be moreover struck with the amount of inevitably fatal disease which we admit into our hospital. Taking into consideration the circumstances in which that class of patients is placed, either from individual or external influence, together with the fact that a considerable proportion of admissions is met with among those who are the most exposed to the depressing agencies of idleness, drunkenness, want of proper food and clothing, and long continued and neglected illness, it should not be a subject of wonder that the ratio of mortality among them rises so high.

What gives more stress again to the preceding is the difference in the rates of mortality existing between European and Indian patients, a subject to which attention has already been called in the Report for 1862. The European patients have presented, for the last year, a proportion of mortality of only 49·2 per 1,000; the Indians of 195·4 per 1,000. Laying aside, as above explained, the important consideration of difference of constitution and difference in the relative number of a graver kind of complaints, I have no hesitation in attributing that comparative success to the by far more early admittance of the former into the hospital after the inroad of disease.

4.—MEDICAL NOTES.

I shall now offer a few observations on some of the most important diseases, and some interesting cases treated during the last year. Those observations will be, of necessity, only cursory, as a full detail of all the diseases or classes of disease treated cannot be entered into in this place.

A.—*Fevers.* With regard to fevers, I shall call to mind that in the Report for the year 1862 I had already noticed the increase which was taking place in the number of fevers of a serious character, and signalized their prevalence during the first months of 1863. The present Report shows that a particular type of fever, among others, the bilious remittent, has continued throughout last year to prevail in an almost uninterrupted manner, and the following tables point out that its comparative frequency has not declined, as well as that its deadly nature has lost nothing of its virulence.

	Remained.				Admitted.				Total treated.				Discharged.				Died.				Remaining.			
	Europeans.	Natives.	Indians.	Total.	Europeans.	Natives.	Indians.	Total.	Europeans.	Natives.	Indians.	Total.	Europeans.	Natives.	Indians.	Total.	Europeans.	Natives.	Indians.	Total.	Europeans.	Natives.	Indians.	Total.
1862.																								
Febris Typhus and Typhoides -	1	–	–	1	1	1	60	62	2	1	60	63	–	–	35	35	1	1	24	26	1	–	1	2
„ Intermittens - - -	1	–	6	7	3	–	1	4	4	–	7	11	3	–	6	9	–	–	1	1	1	–	–	1
„ Remittens - - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
„ Remittens Biliosa - -	2	–	–	2	2	5	146	153	4	5	146	155	2	2	79	83	1	2	64	67	1	1	3	5
„ Continua Communis -	2	1	9	12	110	17	337	464	112	18	346	476	109	18	287	414	–	–	57	57	3	–	2	5
	6	1	15	22	116	23	544	683	122	24	559	705	114	20	407	541	2	3	146	151	6	1	6	13
1863.																								
Febris Typhus and Typhoides -	1	–	1	2	4	1	22	27	5	1	23	29	4	1	17	22	1	–	6	7	–	–	–	–
„ Intermittens - - -	1	–	–	1	22	1	1	24	23	1	1	25	19	1	1	21	2	–	–	2	2	–	–	2
„ Remittens - - -	–	–	–	–	3	–	1	4	3	–	1	4	3	–	1	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
„ Remittens Biliosa - -	1	1	3	5	1	1	197	199	2	2	200	204	2	1	131	134	–	1	67	68	–	–	2	2
„ Continua Communis -	3	–	2	5	80	13	204	297	83	13	206	302	82	13	201	296	–	–	–	–	1	–	5	6
	6	1	6	13	110	16	425	551	116	17	431	564	110	16	351	477	3	1	73	77	3	–	7	10

It is only of late years that this form of fever has assumed the frequency which has told so fatally on one portion almost exclusively of the inhabitants of this island, namely, the Indians; for it is not the less remarkable feature is its selection of that particular race for exerting its ravages. So much is this the case that out of a total number for the last two years of 352 admissions, we reckon only three Europeans and six natives or creoles. Those numbers are certainly out of all proportion to the comparative rates of admissions of those classes of patients; and although the Indians seem to be properly circumstanced, from external influences, for the development of the disease, yet it must be owned that, in presence of such a vast deal of difference, peculiarity of constitution can only be looked to for a rational explanation.

That the bilious remittent fever arises or develops itself more fully where there exists an agglomeration of individuals particularly predisposed to it from constitution or otherwise, and perhaps also the medium they live in, is an undoubted fact; but it seems also to possess in some degree infectious properties (which might be assimilated to those of typhoid fever), as may be proved by isolated cases of Indians taking it amidst good sanitary conditions, and by five of our hospital servants being struck by the disease, two cases among them proving fatal.

That fever, is a true remittent, only in its stage of what I may call development; it soon assumes the continued form, and when prolonged becomes clearly intermittent, especially when the disease is to terminate favourably. In several instances also, after fully established convalescence, we have met with distinct relapses, and these as a general rule have ended fatally.

The pathological appearances discovered after death do not in my experience throw much light on the essential nature of that fever. The autopsy of all the fatal cases, 135 in number, has been carefully performed, and the only constant morbid alterations met with have been the following:—

A general yellow colouration of the tissues and fluids of the body; and this deeper in proportion as death had been more rapid. Yet the gall-bladder in all the cases did contain bile, either normal in appearance and character, or more frequently rather inspissated; and that fluid had never been wanting during life, either in the alvine evacuations or in the vomited matters, bilious vomiting, sometimes obstinate, having ushered in the disease in by far the majority of cases.

Development of the liver and spleen, always considerable, and in some cases reaching such a point as to render those organs from three to five times their normal size. It is needless to add that, especially when death occurred in the incipient stage of the fever, they were highly congested; and their tissue was in general softened, sometimes almost different, particularly in the spleen. As the fatal termination were more and more remote from the commencement of the attack, the size, congestion, and softening of those organs were less and less remarked; and in some cases, where death took place only at the end of the second or during the third or fourth week, they had nearly resumed their normal appearances.

The blood in the fatal cases, especially those becoming so speedily, was found dark, sometimes thickened and even oily looking, like tar, and very seldom formed in clots either in the heart or the large blood vessels.

The other pathological appearances met with were not necessarily present in all the cases. Thus cerebral congestion was most intense where death had been preceded by coma, and then it has been met with of a more intense degree in those instances where the patient died within the second or third day of the disease, sinking in a state of deep coma, as if he had been regularly poisoned by retention in the blood of the active principle of bile. It was in those patients that congestion of the liver and spleen also reached its highest degree, seeming so active then that in two cases there was found laceration of the capsule of the spleen, accompanied by hæmorrhage from the organ in one of them.

Congestion of the kidneys, with concomitant increase in size of the organs, was very generally met with; whilst the digestive tube presented no organic change in any of the autopsies performed, excepting when the fever supervened on or was complicated by dysentery, as occurred in a few instances. No alteration of the gastric or intestinal mucous membrane was discovered, to render possible an assimilation of the malady with any of the fevers of the typhoid type.

Not only are the virulence of that disease and its deadly tendency to be estimated by the rate of mortality (376·1 per 1,000 during the two years 1862 and 1863), but again by the manner in which it strikes down some of its victims. I have seen patients in full vigour of life, strong in body, and apparently in constitution, cut off by its attack, and sinking in deep coma within probably the second day from its invasion. In such cases the most active treatment seemed unavailing even in putting off for a time the fatal result; fully leeching, or largely blistering, or both, the hepatic and splenitic regions, blistering the nape of the neck, back or vertex of the head, or the lower extremities, the administration of powerful emetics or purgatives, or of full doses of calomel or quinine, and of stimulants, proved one and all equally fruitless. The dose of the peculiar poison of the fever seemed too strong for the constitution, and once in action it irremediably performed its deadly task.

As for treatment, the proportion of deaths reached points out that none has yet been discovered which is equal to the urgency of the danger threatened. Yet it would appear that some progress in the right way has been made, for our ratio of mortality per 1,000 for 1863 stands as 333·4 to 432·3 for 1862. The therapeutical means employed for meeting this dire disease were, emetics, and (by Dr. Rogers) calomel to incipient salivation, in the early stage, with full blistering of the hepatic and splenitic regions, sometimes preceded by copious leeching; carbonate of ammonia, effervescing draughts, neutral salines to oppose the vomiting; saline or more drastic purgatives, according to the state of the abdomen; and further on in the progress of the malady, and sometimes even soon after its commencement, decoction of bark, quinine, either alone or in combination with calomel, and wine in appropriate doses, but rather liberally administered. Blistering of the nape of the neck, back or top of the head, or lower extremities, has been fully resorted to in incipient or confirmed coma, but seldom with any beneficial effect; they have appeared of some use when only drowsiness had to be relieved. The pure emeto-cathartic plan has been given a fair trial, but it has been followed, in our hands, by no results which can warrant its being confided in solely. Antiseptics internally, such as hydrochloric acid, the liquor soda chlorinata, or a solution of sulphate of soda, have been tried in some cases, in combination with bark and a proper regimen, and they in several instances have been followed by a favourable progress in the course of the disease, which encourages, on rational grounds, a further trial and employment of their beneficial agency.

In presence of means comparatively so restrained to oppose the destruction brought about by that disease, one turns naturally to prophylactic measures for safety against its invasion. We are impotent to carry out any such; but the suggestion of remedying, by all possible means, the overcrowding of the dwelling houses of the poor, especially of the Indians, may not pass unheeded by those who have authority to remove that main source, as we believe it to be, of the generation and spread of bilious remittent fever.

Of *typhus and typhoid fevers* we shall say nothing, except that, as the bilious remittent type predominated those forms of fever diminished in proportion. Our mortality here amounted only to 241·4 per 1,000, against 380·9 in 1862.

Of *intermittents*, we have admitted a rather larger number than usual, and this is explained by a ship in distress throwing in the larger portion of her crew, who, after having been exposed in some part of India to malarious agency, had during the whole voyage to contend against the inclemency of bad weather

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

and over-work. Generally the cases of intermittent fever that come to us are found in patients who have taken the disease in Madagascar, and sometimes, but very rarely, in inhabitants of this island who, dwelling near swampy spots, have had to submit to the prolonged influences of cold and wet.

B.—One case of *erysipelas* is worthy of notice. It occurred in a native who came in with erysipelatous inflammation of the scrotum; suppuration supervened, which followed the tract of the spermatic cord to within the abdomen, and erysipelatous peritonitis, fatal during the second day of admission, closed the scene.

C.—*Dysentery* has been as rife as ever, and the number of our patients labouring under that disease, 336, has been in proportion with our total of admissions. Here also mortality has somewhat diminished, 297·6 to 311·5 during the preceding year. In a few instances dysentery showed itself with an acute character, but, generally speaking, severe inflammatory symptoms were wanting, and among the Indians principally we have had to deal greatly with the chronic form of the complaint. The number of cases which became complicated by affection of the liver has been rather large, and that proportion was larger among the Europeans than among the other classes of patients. Most often it was possible to subdue the complicating hepatitis, but we failed in some instances in preventing its running on to suppuration. Out of our total number of deaths, 100, we had twelve such complications, seven among the Indians, five among the Europeans. It will be noticed here how the European proportion of hepatic abscess, five in 18 deaths, is large when compared with that of the Indians, seven in 80. Post-mortem examinations showed the mode of suppuration of the hepatic organ to have been very various; thus one single abscess, so large as to involve one half of the right lobe of the liver, or several small abscesses disseminated throughout its parenchyma; or again, one large and one or more small purulent collections, have been met with. In none of those cases did the abscess during life, though invariably diagnosed, approach near enough the surface to warrant its evacuation being attempted. Nothing remarkable here in the way of treatment has to be submitted; and ipecacuanha, with or without opiates, and followed by vegetable astringents, was the remedy which met with most success. Local counter-irritation has principally been had recourse to to combat hepatic complication.

D.—*Sporadic or bilious cholera* presented only this remarkable feature, that in the beginning of December two Europeans were admitted, within 48 hours of interval, whose symptoms were such as to remind one forcibly of the cold stage of Asiatic cholera; coldness and blueness of the surface, with pulseless extremities, sunken countenance, and pure watery and rice-water evacuations were present. They, however, rallied, one of them through two emetics of ipecacuanha administered at a few hours of interval one from the other. One Indian who died was admitted in a sinking condition, when a worn-out constitution offered no possibility of assisting the efforts made to save life.

E.—*Rheumatism*, as usual, has been frequent. This disease, common among the Indians, and whose frequency seems scarcely accountable for in our warm climate, is also met with repeatedly among the sailors and police constables, who, by the nature of their duties and mode of life, are constantly brought within the influences of its most ordinary and infallible cause,—prolonged exposure to wet and cold. Two fatal cases among the whole number presented this rare occurrence in our annals of the disease becoming complicated by endo-pericarditis, soon running to a fatal termination; they both presented themselves in Indian patients.

F.—*Venereal diseases*, 313 cases in all, were as common as ever, perhaps a little more so last year than before. Secondary syphilis has again presented its diversified features, and cutaneous eruptions have been its most frequent among its other forms. But one of the most inveterate and painful it assumed was the rheumatic. The persistency of this variety in resisting all sorts of treatment is at times truly remarkable; and patients, principally Europeans, have remained in hospital for months, and on rare occasions for a whole year or more, without any decided benefit being obtained by any of the measures resorted to. Of these, only medicated vapour baths have not been tried, as the hospital is not fitted up for any such. The large proportion of European patients admitted for these diseases, as compared with the Indians, must strike every one, their numbers being principally recruited among constables and sailors. The comparative ratio also of primary to secondary syphilis points out, in those affected with the latter form of the disease, carelessness and neglect in resorting at once to proper remedial means.

We admitted last year several cases of *tuberculous lepra* (*isarath*), persons admitted with this now spreading affection being precluded from entering the Grand River Asylum as before. All our patients were males, and most of them had reached the ulcerative stage of the disease. In this hospital tuberculous leprosy is often met with in patients who, before they present any sign of the skin affection, are suffering from caries of the small bones, such as those of the hand and foot; this is accompanied by chronic ulcers with scooped out-edges, showing themselves mostly on the palmar and plantar surfaces of the limbs, and leading down to the diseased bones. The separation of these, or portion of them, from the contiguous sound parts is a long and tedious process, the patient in the meanwhile presenting, for a long time, no other complication.

G.—Three cases of *tænia* were treated by the ethereal extract of male shield fern; half a drachm to a drachm of the extract, on an empty stomach, followed two hours afterwards by a full dose of castor oil, acted at once and in the most complete manner possible, the worm being passed in one mass and quite dead.

H.—*Scrofula* and *phthisis* are commonly enough met with in Europeans, but still more so among Indians. The fatal cases of scrofula furnished by the latter only were those in which mesenteric disease existed, the glands being enlarged and inflamed, some of them having even suppurated, a few containing tubercular deposits. The tubercular diathesis seems to prevail to an inordinate extent among the Indians, in whom phthisis runs sometimes an uncommonly rapid course; it is not

unfrequent that a post-mortem examination of an Indian dying from any other cause discloses the presence of more or less tubercular deposit in the pulmonary organs. The disease, however, as far as pathological appearances are concerned, does not show any marked difference with what it is known to be in Europe; but frequently vomicæ exist, even of a large size, when the outward symptoms would scarcely indicate their existence, the Indian constitution appearing able to withstand for some time, without fully resenting it, such an amount of organic change. This may be owing to the comparative want of intercurrent inflammatory complications during the first periods of the malady, but when once that constitution has begun to give way the course to a fatal termination is but the more rapid. This becomes then, in a pretty large proportion of cases, hastened by sub-acute inflammatory thoracic or abdominal affections; thus, out of 87 deaths 19 became fatally complicated by dysentery or diarrhœa; 13 by intercurrent pneumonia, or more often pleurisy; and in four, advanced renal disease was present. In one instance out of the three cases of death among the Europeans did dysentery terminate the original malady. Remedies which I have seen productive of real and lasting benefit in Europe I find almost of no value in this climate to arrest or delay the progress of phthisis. Once the stage of suppuration has begun to establish itself, cod liver oil becomes of no avail; and the only resource, if it can be called so, is in tonics, principally iron or zinc, and vegetable bitters.

I.—The indulgence in spirituous liquors, which seems to be becoming daily a more and more common propensity among the lower classes, shows itself in the number of cases of *delirium tremens* which have come to hospital for treatment. Strange to say, however, out of 18 instances, 16 belonged to the European class of patients, and these were principally constables. The only fatal case was one in which the disease was recurring for the fifth time, the intervals between the high doses, fits having become shorter and shorter. Digitalis in high doses from two gross to half an ounce of the tincture, repeated two or three times and even more in the 24 hours, has been tried with decided success in two cases, with only doubtful or no benefit at all in two or three others. Such large doses at times brought on obstinate vomiting, and had no result but that of debilitating the patient. Opiates and a moderate allowance of the usual stimulus, or of malt liquors, were the means which more generally succeeded.

J.—Out of six cases of *tetanus*, two were cured, one traumatic and one idiopathic, by the use of tincture of opium in repeated doses, keeping up a continued state of narcotism. In one of the fatal instances, where the disease arose from a contused lacerated wound of the toes and instep, section of the poplitcal nerve was tried without any relief whatever. That frightful complication of lacerated wounds, especially such ones as implicate a certain amount of tendinous structure or fibrous tissue, has been much more frequent in 1863 than during the preceding year, when only one example is recorded. Besides the above instances we have to note down another, occurring after ablation of a schirrous tumor of the spermatic cord, on the sixth day of the operation, when the wound was in a fair way of cicatrization; and a case of burn of the hand and fingers from gunpowder explosion had the same termination on the fifth day after admission.

One case of *chronic myelitis*, the result of a fall on the loins across a beam, and attended in an European by incipient but marked paraplegia, was dismissed cured after two months' treatment. Counter irritation over the spinal column from the lumbar region down to the coccyx was the principal remedial measure employed.

Among *neuralgias* we shall cite several attacks of sciatica which were successfully treated by repeated blistering, some of them being remarkably benefited by a single or repeated application of small blister over the head of the fibula of the affected limb.

Concussion of the brain in an Indian determined acute phthisis, which hastened the fatal termination after a few days.

K.—*Diseases of the circulatory system*, fortunately not very frequent, have been, as might be expected, attended by a high ratio of mortality. *Idiopathic pericarditis*, occurring in an European, terminated in death on the day of admission and probably on the second day of the disease. With *valvular affections of the heart*, generally mitral and accompanied by hypertrophy, out of 18 patients 14 succumbed. Two cases of *aneurism*, with their usual symptoms, one of the beginning of the arch of the aorta, the other of the left subclavian within the thorax, both being about the size of an orange, terminated in death. But the case of *phlebitis* recorded is as interesting a one as can be met with: In an European constable, after exposure to the cold of the night, obstinate priapism came on. Admitted on the fourth day after the commencement of the disease, all imaginable means to get rid of the untoward symptom were in turns tried, and all in vain; internally, antispasmodics, sedatives, narcotics, and purgatives; externally, leeching of the pernicum, the application of warmth or cold, the inunction of narcotic ointments, and lastly (following the example of Velpeau in a successful case), the perforation of the corpora cavernosa by means of a trocar. The patient at last sank on the eleventh day after admission, modified symptoms of purulent infection showing themselves towards the end. After death the heart was found to contain a sanious fluid resembling reddish thin pus; and both cavities, as well as the large vessels leaving and leading to them, contained clots of what appeared to be purulent matter thickened into masses, breaking down easily under pressure. In these the microscope discovered well-formed pus globules in quantity. The liver was about three times its normal size, softened and pale; from its cut surfaces exuded a fluid resembling that existing in the heart, but more akin to blood. The spleen, from six to eight times its normal dimension, was softer again in its tissue, which resembled in colour dirty red currant jelly, and broke down easily under pressure. Both kidneys were hypertrophied, and in parts granular. The corpora cavernosa, still in a state of tension, yielded, on being laid open, a thick tarry blood without coagula; no disease of the bladder or rectum existed, and the cerebellum was normal in appearance.

L.—Inflammatory diseases of the respiratory organs have been on the increase during last year. *Pleuritis* and *pneumonia* or *pleuro-pneumonia* have scored 52 admissions against 37 during the

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

preceding year. The rate of mortality is found at the same time to be much higher, 576·9 in 1863 to 486·5 in 1862. No other reason is to be assigned for this except what has been shown already in table, in which thirteen cases of pneumonia and pleurisy are found to terminate fatally within the three first days after admission.

M.—Among the *diseases of the digestive system* we shall draw attention only to *hepatitis*, leaving aside that which complicated dysentery, and which has been already dwelt upon. Here the number of Europeans is not only proportionally but even absolutely greater than that of the Indians or natives. Among the cases ending in death, one of suppuration is reckoned among the Europeans, two among the Indians; in the other fatal instances, principally cirrhosis among the latter and fatty degeneration among the former were discovered. In the Europeans, disease of the liver often puts on the simple sub-acute inflammatory action, without proceeding to any change of structure; and this explains the relative low rate of mortality in that class of patients when compared with the Indians. The diseases of this organ were admitted in greater number during last year, and the mortality ran also much higher; but it is evident that in organic diseases of the liver, such as cirrhosis and fatty degeneration, rate of mortality cannot be taken as a standard of the value of treatment, as no treatment is available there; and it is only the fortuitous circumstance of a larger or smaller number of admissions that will regulate the death-rate. This remark holds true with regard to the following kind of disease.

N.—*Nephritis*, which figured only for two cases in 1862, reached during 1863 the number of 33, out of which 23 died. They were all of a chronic nature; and in the autopsies granular or fatty degeneration of the kidneys, with, in a few instances, cystic complication, were the appearances met with. One particular notion to be gathered here is the following, which concerns only the Indians in a rather high proportion of instances: the patient is admitted with all the outward signs and all the concomitant symptoms of disease of the kidneys, except the presence of albumen in the urine, which has all the other characteristics usually encountered. This peculiar exception, apparently inherent to Indian constitution, has been tested a great number of times for the last three years, and found to be no criterion of the presence or absence of organic alteration in the renal organs.

One typical case of advanced *diabetes mellitus*, in an Indian, was dismissed, after two months treatment, with complete absence of sugar from the urine. The treatment followed was the following; opiates internally and cod liver oil, full allowance of flesh and meat, with, as much as possible, abstinence from vegetables and vegetable food; no bread or rice being permitted, and ground maize being substituted, and a liberal allowance of wine. This patient, however, returned to hospital after a few months, the disease having reappeared with the supervention and rapid development of phthisis, which carried him off.

Anomalous symptoms presenting themselves in an Indian, and not referrible, from the account given by the patient, to any organ of the urinary system, terminated in death; autopsy showed in the bladder a *calculus* of about the size of a pigeon's egg, and of the oxalate of lime description.

Extravasation of urine was, in one case, the result of accident; this died. In two others the effect of probable rupture of the membranous portion of the urethra in stricture of the canal; admitted in that condition, the patients had the good fortune of leaving the hospital cured of that dangerous complication, and relieved of the state of the urethra which had brought it on.

O.—*Synovitis* terminated fatally by exhausting suppuration in two instances, one of the hip, the other of the knee joint.

Skin diseases have shown themselves under their most varied aspects; and of these the most common were *scabies* and *ecthyma*, to which the Indians appear particularly predisposed. We do not include here those forms of syphilitic origin which have been enumerated under the head of Secondary Syphilis. Six cases of *elephantiasis* have been placed among the affections of the integumentary system, as this is the part which proves most evidently involved; the morbid alteration attacked principally the genital organs, and of that particular form we shall have occasion to speak further on.

With regard to the *diseases of the eye*, we shall notice that *purulent ophthalmia*, *conjunctivitis*, mostly of a sub-acute or chronic character, and *corneitis*, principally ulcerative, are frequently met with among the Indians, and are to be taken as indications of debilitated constitutions, in scrofulous patients remarkable for their want of cleanliness and privation of the first necessaries of life.

P.—The chapter of *Accidents* is a long one, as far as number is concerned.

Cases of *luxation* (9) can be classed as follows in point of frequency: the shoulder joint, fingers at their metacarpo-phalangeal or phalangeal articulations, and the elbow joint.

The following is a statement of 40 of the most important *fractures* (59 in all) admitted and treated:—

Fracture of the skull	-	2
„ jaw -	-	2
„ arm -	-	2
„ fore-arm	-	3
„ clavicle	-	4
„ ribs -	-	5
„ thigh	-	6
„ leg -	-	16
Total	-	40

The fatal termination in 15 of these arose either from (1) the complication existing, such as wound of the lungs and pleura, with or without internal hemorrhage, in fracture of the ribs; or (2) supervening, as the profuse suppuration or gangrene consequent upon compound fractures, or after amputation for the same; (3) from the nature of the fracture itself, as in that of the base of the skull, for example. In the case of an old woman in whom double fracture of the thigh existed, apoplexy put an end to the life of the patient. It is worthy of notice how fracture of the leg, either tibia alone or both tibia and fibula, has been much more frequent than the other kinds; it was very often the result of direct violence, and met with principally in Indian carters, who had their limbs run over or crushed by bags of rice or sugar falling across them. Out of the 36 patients dismissed from hospital, a cure had been effected in all, except one case of fracture of the thigh, in which reunion was rendered impossible by the unruly conduct of the patient, who was discharged with a useless limb.

Under the head of *Poisoning* is included that description of a chronic nature in which opium-eaters, generally Indians or Chinese, after being suddenly deprived of their usual stimulus, suffer from general lassitude, dyspepsia, and rheumatic pains. One instance only was admitted in which there had been an attempt at suicide by means of an overdose of laudanum; and a few others where gunjah or stramonium had been indulged in or administered with guilty intent.

Malingering counts 39 admissions, all coming either from the civil prisons, or the police or surveyor general's department. Under the head of *Healthy* are included those mothers who were admitted to tend on their sick children, or those children who accompanied their sick mothers.

The unusual prevalence of rabies among dogs during part of last year resulted in three cases of *hydrophobia* which were admitted by us. The ascertained period of incubation in them were approximatively as follows: 16, 81, and 30 days. In case 1, the bite from an unknown and unprovoked dog had been immediately cauterized by butter of antimony at one of the druggist's shops in town; in case 2, the patient had come with nearly cicatrized wounds on the fourth day after the accident, and suppuration of those wounds was determined, during several days, by means of an open blister; in case 3, the bite was inflicted by an excited dog which was killed forthwith and in which no signs of rabies were discovered by the Government veterinary surgeon. Case the first terminated fatally before the application of any remedy; in the other two, antispasmodics, narcoctics, and chloroform, diffusible stimulants, with counter irritation by blistering or the actual cautery over the spinal column, were tried in vain; tracheotomy, in case 3, afforded a few hours' relief, even after the spasms had fully set in. All the cases, from the commencement of the disease to its termination, lasted about three days, the two first days being marked only by a peculiar suspirious heaving of the chest recurring now and then, the pathognomonic horror of liquids or bright surfaces, dysphagia more or less severe and at first easily surmounted, and a remarkable sadness of the individual. The confirmed tetanic spasms never lasted fully 24 hours; and in all, even during that stage, the patient preserved the full command of his intellect almost to the end, the immediate cause of death in all being apparently asphyxia. In all those cases a careful post-mortem examination was made, and the following were the appearances on dissection: in all three, congestion of the cerebrum, cerebellum, and their meninges; with, in case 2, general marked softening of the cerebral substance; in cases 2 and 3, considerable congestion of the medulla oblongata and spinal cord; in case 1, nothing remarkable about those parts; in all three, fullness of the vessels of the meninges of the cord; in all three, apparent vascularity of the pneumo-gastric and phrenic nerves; in cases 1 and 3, general congestion of the lungs to such an extent as to put on the apoplectiform appearance in some parts, and to give those organs a violet tint; in case 2, in whom tracheotomy had been performed, congestion of the same nature, but not to the same degree, as above; in all three, congestion of the mucous membrane of the larynx, trachea, and bronchi, the congestion increasing in degree as the bronchi diminished in size; in all, the lungs crepitating, though chokefull of the peculiar thin frothy mucus, tinged with blood here and there, which had been spewed up in incredible quantities before death; in the three cases, the heart was flaccid, with pale muscular fibres; the left cavity found empty in case 3, containing thin fluid blood in cases 1 and 2, whilst on the right side, only in case 1, a loose yellowish coagulum was discovered. In all three, again, the blood was apparently deeply altered, being always thin and fluid, and having besides an oily appearance in cases 2 and 3, its nature remaining the same in the large vessels and the other internal organs; more or less congestion, greater in case 1, was always present in the liver and kidneys; the other organs were healthy.

Such appearances point out to a deeply altered condition of the nervous system and blood, but the question yet remains to be solved whether the primary morbid agency exists in the former or the latter; though the disease's changes, which in all existed in the brain, its meninges, and those of the spinal cord, together with the congestive appearances of the pneumo-gastric and phrenic nerves, and the tœtaniform nature of the spasms, might lead to the supposition that the primary evil lies in the nervous system, yet the fact that in one of the cases, No. 1, nothing apparently morbid was discovered in the medulla oblongata and spinal cord militates strongly against that conclusion. On the other hand, the evident deeply altered nature of the blood in the three cases, the length of the period of incubation, corresponding so fully with the well-ascertained laws of virus action, and the peculiar nature of the asphyxia which arrests life, render it more probable, in my opinion, that the poison of rabies, at least when inoculated, has its primary action on the blood.

It must be confessed, however, that with all those data, the indications for treatment are more than uncertain, and all treatment tried in my experience has ended only in a complete failure. I have now witnessed seven or eight cases of that horrible disease, and sedatives, narcotics, aæsthetics, emetics, purgatives, stimulants, counter irritation, tracheotomy, have one and all proved perfectly useless. I have seen atropine administered internally to wide dilatation of the pupils, yet no change or remission

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

brought about in the spasms. In one of the cases related above the hypodermic application of a salt of morphia was pushed very far without any better result, and in the other quinine and ammonia have been resorted to in full doses, and proved of no greater efficiency.

Q.—In the course of our autopsies we had occasion to meet with one instance of reversed position of all the internal organs, thoracic as well as abdominal.

R.—One word now with regard to *Operations.* We shall not mention the minor ones of amputations of fingers and toes, for hæmorrhoids, phymosis, or paraphymosis, artificial pupil, &c., which have all in general proved successful. The only ones which we deem worthy of any particular notice are summed up in the following table:

Operations.	Successful.	Died.	Unsuccessful.	Total.
Amputation - - -	—	5	—	5
Cataract - - - -	7	—	4	11
Elephantiasis - - -	2	1	—	3
Excision of tumor - - -	—	1	—	1
Harelip - - - -	1	—	—	1
Hernia (strangulated) - -	1	2	—	3
Hydrocele - - - -	10	—	1	11
Resection of joints, &c. - -	—	3	—	3
Tracheotomy - - -	—	1	—	1
Total - - -	21	13	5	39

Five *amputations* were all followed by death; three were performed below the knee, one above the knee, in the superior third of the thigh; the fifth was Syme's operation, immediately above the ankle joint. In the first four, amputation was had recourse to for compound fracture of the worst kind, and the immediate cause of death was, in two, the supervention of gangrene, in one, traumatic delirium, and in the fourth the patient never rallied from the shock of the accident (compound fracture of both legs) and that of the operation. In the case in which Syme's operation was performed, caries of some of the bones of the tarsus having existed, the patient held out for nearly 24 days, the stump having almost healed up at one time, but at last sank from mere atrophia or marasmus.

Out of the 11 operations for *cataract* seven were successful, the sight being improved in some in a slight, but in others in a remarkable degree, the patient being able to read and write with the assistance of common cataract glasses.

Three cases of *elephantiasis* of the genital organs underwent operation, two in females, one in a male, all Indians. In one of the females the labia majora, in the other the labia minora and clitoris, were involved in a marked degree; the operation was completely successful in its results in both. In the male, an Indian of about 45 years of age, the tumor, of large dimensions, weighed nearly 40 pounds. Its removal had been successfully effected, ablation of the degenerated testes having been necessary, and the preserved flaps were being brought together, when the patient having recovered consciousness, suddenly fell into syncope, which terminated in death. This unfortunate occurrence was due to a concourse of an unavoidable circumstance; profuse venous hemorrhage during the primary incisions into the tumor, the length of the operation, which lasted about a full hour or more, and the quantity of chloroform inhaled in the meanwhile. The post-mortem examination showed, besides, a commencing fatty change in the muscular fibres of the heart, and advanced fatty degeneration of the liver.

If the above operation ended in such an unfortunate manner, the annals of the Civil Hospital are not wanting, however, in cases where full success was obtained in others. Up to this time I have witnessed five other operations for the same disease in patients whose tumors weighed, in one instance, as many as 15 pounds; in all they were successful, and in two, a Creole and an Indian, so completely so to our knowledge that coitus was possible some time after they had left the hospital. In none, as yet, are we informed of the return of the disease.

In an instance of *excision of a schirrous tumor* of the spermatic cord, where castration had to be performed, the patient, after the wound had almost cicatrized, died of tetanus on the sixth day after the operation.

An uncomplicated case of harelip was cured, whilst three examples of irreducible *strangulated hernia,* after operation, terminated in death in two, gangrene of the intestines having supervened.

Eleven cases of *hydrocele,* some double, were all successfully operated on except one.

Resection of the articular surfaces was tried in one case of disease of the elbow joint, but the patient sank under profuse suppuration of the wound; in another of necrosis of part of the upper jaw, anterior disease of the heart putting an end to the life of the patient; in a third, of cancer of the maxillaries on the left side, in which, the morbid change extending farther than it had been expected, the continuance of the operation had to be desisted from before the whole diseased mass could be extirpated; the patient died a few days afterwards.

The instance of *tracheotomy* mentioned is that performed in one of the cases of hydrophobia.

In the above enumeration, in one of the operations for elephantiasis of the scrotum, the patient sank on the operating table, the amount of chloroform inhaled being partly to be blamed for the unex-

pected fatal issue. But as yet, though chloroform is made use of very frequently every year in the Civil Hospital, we have had no death to deplore from the mere influence of that anæsthetic agent.

5.—The Hospital Building.

I cannot terminate this report without saying a few words concerning improvements in ventilation, which I should like to see carried out, if possible, in our wards of the Civil Hospital.

The following is a tabular statement of three of our best wards, in which, however, the beds are arranged in four rows:—

	No. of Beds.	No. of Doors and Windows.	Cubic Space in Feet per Bed.
European ward - - -	29	8	970
Upper Indian ward - -	40	13	1,020
Lower do. do. - - -	28	8	754

This summary view of the disposition of our wards shows that they are far from according with what they should be, taking for a standard the ward-unit given in the General Report of the Commission appointed for improving the Sanitary Condition of Barracks and Hospitals, published in 1863. The result is, in my opinion, a want of sufficient ventilation, which obtrudes upon one in a very forcible manner when entering even the larger wards on the morning. The peculiar smell yielded by the atmosphere of a confined sick room is then truly oppressive, and to this are superadded the effluvia from the close-stools of the dysenteric patients, kept for examination by the physician, and lying either in the verandah adjoining or in the ward itself, by the bedside of the bed-ridden patients. Whatever care be taken to leave open at night as many apertures as are compatible with the comfort of the patients in general, and whatever attention is paid to a proper service of the close-stools, that condition of the atmosphere in the wards is found unavoidable, and it is self-evident how baneful such a state of things must be in our climate.

To remedy this state of things in a certain degree, I beg leave to propose that the following measures should be carried out: —Open in each ward, between each two apertures and above their level, windows of three or four feet square, which shall be left constantly open, except on extraordinary occasions. This measure will afford an amount of ventilating space for the large European ward of at least fifty-four (54) square feet, and for the upper Indian ward of one hundred and two (102) square feet, and for the lower Indian ward of fifty-four (54) square feet. It is not so much, however, the amount of ventilating space which is here of importance, as the situation of those windows, so placed as to allow them to remain open continually. The closeness of our atmosphere in summer is such, especially at night, that no measures should be left untried to obviate its effects in an hospital which then generally numbers the largest amount of its cases of dysentery.

As for the situation of the Civil Hospital, and some other defects which are inseparable from the existing establishment, these will be remedied only by erection of a new and appropriate building, and I hope that Government does not lose sight of granting this Colony, as soon as the gift becomes possible, a new hospital, which will unite all the advantages, comforts, and improvements which modern science requires in such an institution.

6.—Discipline in the Establishment.

I have maintained discipline among the ward masters, superior and inferior servants of the Civil Hospital in, I believe, a satisfactory manner. The proper and ready discharge of their duties has been, in general, obtained with facility. The want of a resident surgeon, unavoidable during a long period, is about to be remedied in a permanent manner, and such will, besides ensuring a still more efficient working of the establishment, put an end to a few idle outcries of well-intentioned persons who would have others as perfect as themselves.

Allow me, in concluding, to record the efficient manner in which the purveying department of the institution has been directed by Mr. Chenard, and to bear testimony to the ready and able concourse rendered by my friend and assistant Dr. Henry Rogers during nearly a year that we have had, both alone, to attend to the medical service of the Civil Hospital.

I have, &c.

Arch. Gordon, Esq., M.D., C.B.,
Chief Medical Officer.

(Signed) O. Beaugeard, M.D.,
Acting Surgeon in Charge.

GENERAL SUMMARY of SICK treated in the CIVIL GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL from 1st of January 1863 to 31st December 1863.

No.	CLASSES OF DISEASES.	Remained by last Return.				Total remained.	Admissions.				Total admitted.	Total treated.	Discharges.				Total discharged.	Deaths.				Total died.	Total remaining.
		Europeans.	Creoles.	Late Apprentices.	Indians.		Europeans.	Creoles.	Late Apprentices.	Indians.			Europeans.	Creoles.	Late Apprentices.	Indians.		Europeans.	Creoles.	Late Apprentices.	Indians.		
1	Miasmatic Diseases -	20	–	1	25	46	332	–	39	811	1,182	1,228	314	–	33	647	994	22	–	5	161	188	46
2	Enthetic, Dietetic, and Parasitic Diseases.	9	–	2	15	26	109	–	15	249	373	399	111	–	15	238	364	–	–	–	4	4	31
3	Diathetic and Tubercular Diseases.	3	–	–	6	9	35	–	11	155	201	210	27	–	5	60	92	3	–	5	94	102	16
4	Diseases of the Nervous System.	3	–	1	11	15	46	–	8	58	112	127	43	–	8	48	99	3	–	1	16	20	8
5	Diseases of the Circulatory System.	1	–	–	—	1	8	–	3	16	27	28	6	–	1	3	10	3	–	2	13	18	—
6	Diseases of the Respiratory System.	–	–	–	6	6	20	–	8	88	116	122	16	–	6	62	84	1	–	2	30	33	5
7	Diseases of the Digestive System.	3	–	1	6	10	65	–	9	74	148	158	60	–	8	62	130	5	–	2	18	25	3
8	Diseases of the Urinary System.	3	–	–	1	4	5	–	4	34	43	47	7	–	3	11	21	1	–	1	24	26	—
9	Local Diseases - -	5	–	2	21	28	54	–	11	158	223	251	56	–	11	158	225	–	–	1	8	9	17
10	Developmental Diseases -	–	–	–	3	3	3	–	4	36	43	46	3	–	3	28	34	–	–	1	10	11	1
11	Violent Deaths or Diseases	5	–	1	11	17	64	–	27	233	324	341	63	–	22	230	315	1	–	3	16	20	6
	Total - -	52	–	8	105	165	741	–	139	1,912	2,792	2,957	706	–	115	1,547	2,368	39	–	23	394	456	133

O. BEAUGEARD, M.D.,
Acting Surgeon in Charge.

PROCUREUR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Crime.

Appendix. The accompanying Return shows in a tabular form the prosecutions for offences tried by jury from the years 1859 to 1863 inclusive.

2. It indicates a considerable increase in crime during the last year, and a still more marked increase in the number of offenders. While the numbers during the previous four years showed only slight variations, thus:—

——	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.
Number of cases prosecuted -	46	39	43	41
Number of persons prosecuted -	68	72	74	68

3. The number of cases prosecuted in 1863 was 64, being an increase of about one-half, and the number of persons tried was 199, being not much less than three times as many as during any of the previous years.

4. The increase in the number of prisoners convicted is nearly in the same proportion:—

——	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
Number of convictions - -	40	60	59	46	136

5. The increase has arisen chiefly in cases of larceny with violence; the numbers on this head being:—

——	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
Cases prosecuted - - -	—	8	6	5	16
Persons prosecuted - -	—	36	24	24	106

6. During the trials in these cases in 1863 it appeared that there were several organized bands of marauders who committed their nightly depredations in the most daring manner. Their proceedings were nearly similar in each case. A party of from 10 to 50, armed with sticks, arrived at a house about midnight, broke open the doors or windows, and after maltreating the inhabitants, to make them disclose where their money was stored, rifled the house of all its contents. Almost invariably the marauders were Indian immigrants from the Madras Presidency.

7. During the end of 1862 some of these crimes were committed, but with impunity, owing to the difficulty in identifying the offenders, who were usually strangers to those whom they molested. Success made them reckless, and increased their number. Happily the vigilance of the police and the public was aroused, and the result was the detection and punishment of a number in each gang. A considerable diminution in this class of cases during the first six months of 1864 induces the hope that the leaders have been detected, and that several of the gangs have been broken up.

8. There has also been an increase in the number of crimes of violence (*i.e.* murder, manslaughter, and serious assaults) in 1863.

9. The numbers are:—

Case of Violence.					
——	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
Cases prosecuted - - -	21	19	20	20	24
Persons prosecuted - -	29	23	26	25	59

10. From this it appears that the system of combination had extended to these cases also, the number of persons tried for these crimes being usually a third or a fourth in excess of the number of cases, whereas in 1863 it was nearly two-and-a-half times ($2\frac{1}{2}$) as many. This proportion did not arise from the peculiar circumstances of one or two cases, but is distributed among the different classes of cases, thus:—

1863.							
Murder.		Manslaughter.		Wounds and Blows causing Death.		Wounds and Blows causing serious Sickness.	
Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.
9	20	5	19	5	11	5	9

11. It is a curious circumstance that, even in cases of rape, in which there is rarely more than one offender, the practice of combination is traceable in 1863, as contrasted with previous years, thus:—

Cases of Rape.					
——	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
Cases prosecuted - - -	4	1	2	2	4
Persons prosecuted - -	4	1	3	2	8

12. From the data thus given there seems to be little doubt that serious crimes had increased perceptibly in 1863. From the corresponding state of facts in the months of 1864 it is to be hoped that the increase has not continued. At all events, means have been taken in several quarters to arrest it. The judges have systematically imposed severe sentences in cases of larceny with violence; the prison authorities have prevented any of those imprisoned for these crimes from escaping, by confining them to work within the prison walls; and, it may be added, the public prosecutor has not found juries so prone to acquit on frivolous grounds of defence as during former years.

13. Some further statistics on crime will be found in the paragraphs on prisons.

(Signed) W. G. DICKSON,
Procureur General.

June 27, 1864.

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

APPENDIX to PROCUREUR-GENERAL'S REPORT on CRIME.

	1859.					1860.					1861.					1862.					1863.				
	Prosecutions.		No. of Persons acquitted.	No. of Persons convicted.	Convicted of a lesser Crime than charged.	Prosecutions.		No. of Persons acquitted.	No. of Persons convicted.	Convicted of a lesser Crime than charged.	Prosecutions.		No. of Persons acquitted.	No. of Persons convicted.	Convicted of a lesser Crime than charged.	Prosecutions.		No. of Persons acquitted.	No. of Persons convicted.	Convicted of a lesser Crime than charged.	Prosecutions.		No. of Persons acquitted.	No. of Persons convicted.	Convicted of a lesser Crime than charged.
	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.				No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.				No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.				No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.				No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.			
CRIMES AGAINST INDIVIDUALS.																									
Murder	15	23	9	3	11	8	10	2	5	3	8	13	2	1	10	10	15	4	4	7	9	20	6	2	12
Manslaughter	1	1	—	1	—	4	5	1	4	—	5	6	2	3	1	6	6	2	2	2	5	19	—	1	18
Wounds and blows causing death	2	2	1	—	1	3	4	1	3	—	7	7	1	6	—	2	2	1	1	—	5	11	—	9	2
Ditto causing sickness	3	3	—	3	—	4	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	2	—	5	9	6	3	—
Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape and attempt to rape	4	4	—	3	1	1	1	—	1	—	2	3	2	1	—	2	2	1	1	—	4	8	2	6	—
Abduction	1	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnatural crime	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	2	—	2	2	1	1	—	2	4	2	2	—
Perjury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	—
Outrage to public officers	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY.																									
Larceny, with violence to persons, and breaking	—	—	—	—	—	8	36	6	27	3	6	24	—	24	—	5	24	8	15	1	16	106	38	67	1
Larceny and domestic larceny	4	15	8	3	4	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	3	1	2	—	2	3	2	1	—
Highway robbery, with violence to persons	1	3	3	—	—	1	3	—	—	3	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	2	—
Embezzlement	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forgery	4	4	—	4	—	6	5	1	4	—	4	8	6	2	—	3	3	1	2	—	4	3	1	2	—
Extortion and bribery	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Arson	6	7	4	3	—	1	1	—	1	—	6	6	1	5	—	6	6	3	3	—	8	11	4	7	—
Total	46	68	29	22	18	39	72	12	50	10	43	74	15	48	11	41	68	22	36	10	64	199	63	103	33

Lunatic Asylum, March 2, 1864.

IN presenting my annual report for the year 1863, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, I have much pleasure in stating that the establishment is in an improved condition to what it has ever been before. The Surveyor General has completed numerous repairs, and has made many additions to the buildings which have greatly added to their efficiency.

2. Amongst the repairs most needed at the end of the year 1862, I may mention as the most important, that the roof of the main building has been rendered water-proof.

3. Some new rooms are in an advanced state of completion, which will afford the increased accommodation for the female patients so much needed.

4. Any requisitions made upon the Surveyor General for repairs urgently needed, a necessity for which frequently arises in an establishment of this description, have been responded to by that gentleman with promptitude.

5. With regard to the sanitary condition of the Asylum, I am happy to state that it has been generally healthy, and that we have not suffered from any epidemic disease, which I attribute in a great degree to the improved drainage carried out by the Surveyor General.

6. During the past year 63 patients have been admitted, of which number six were Europeans, 20 Creoles, and 37 Indians.

7. Twenty-seven patients have been discharged, of whom 6 were Europeans, 9 Creoles, and 12 Indians; two of the Europeans were not finally discharged, but allowed to be absent on leave in conformity with the lunatic Ordinance.

8. The number of deaths has been 36, viz., 1 European, 11 Creoles, and 24 Indians, and I may mention that a proportion of the deaths have been those of patients admitted in an advanced stage of debility, arising from a desire on the part of their friends and relatives to keep them amongst themselves as long as possible.

9. There remained in the Asylum at the end of last year 175 patients, viz., 126 males and 49 females.

10. The total number treated during the year was 238, being an increase of 19 over the number treated in 1862.

* Not printed.

11. Annexed to this Report are four tables,*—

1st. Showing the number of admissions, discharges, and deaths during the year 1863.

2nd. A comparative statement of the same from 1854 to 1863.

3rd. Showing the number of patients belonging to the different districts, in the Asylum on the 31st December 1863.

4th. Showing how the cost of maintenance was borne.

12. In conclusion, I have to bear testimony to the zeal and assiduity displayed by the different employés of the establishment in the performance of their duties.

(Signed) L. POWELL, M.D.
Superintendent.

PROCUREUR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Prisons.

During the year 1863 the prisons in the Colony consisted of the Central Prison in Port Louis, and a local one in each district; all of these being Government establishments, managed, as in previous years, by a Government officer, assisted by a committee.

The prison of Port Louis is at the same time the general prison for felons from all parts of the island and dependencies, and the local gaol for offenders sentenced by the magistrates of the district of Port Louis.

The chief statistics of the latter prison were as follows:—

Number of prisoners remaining on December 31, 1862 - -	519
Entered prison during 1863 - - - - -	11,778
On the prison book - - - - -	12,297
Released from prison, died, &c. during the year 1863 - -	11,509
Remaining in prison on December 31, 1863	788

The committals in 1863 were 11,778, being 2,136 more than in 1862.

The following table shows the number of each class committed during the two years:—

—	Stipendiary Magistrates.	Police Court.	District Magistrates.			Supreme Court.		Naval and Military Prisoners.	Committed for Trial but acquitted and discharged.	Total.
			Senior.		Junior.					
	Vagrants.	Drunkenness.	Civil Side.	Contravening Merchant Shipping Law.	Criminal Side.	Civil Side.	Criminal Side.			
1862 -	4,904	2,365	103	159	1,946	48	37	11	69	9,642
1863 -	7,335	1,800	103	82	2,108	22	129	10	189	11,778
Increase -	2,431	—	—	—	162	—	92	—	120	2,136
Decrease -	—	565	—	77	—	26	---	1	—	—

It will be seen that the increase arises chiefly from vagrant prisoners, whose number has been, since 1858, nearly tripled, thus:—

1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
2,687	2,444	5,132	5,925	4,904	7,335

There has been a decrease in 1863, as compared with 1862, of 565 in the police court cases for drunkenness and disorder, and contraventions of municipal regulations within the boundaries of the town. The numbers of these cases since 1858 were:—

1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
992	2,144	2,629	3,375	2,365	1,800

This shows that police offences, which had increased from the institution of the police magistracy in 1858 until 1861, have been on the decline since then, and are now little more than half what they were two years ago. It may be hoped that the punishments imposed by the police magistrate have been successful in promoting increased quiet and order in the town, in which, in fact, there is a marked improvement in these respects. There is also a decrease in the committals in cases under the merchant shipping laws, which appear as follows since 1859:—

1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
155	172	172	159	82

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

There has been little or no change during the last five years in the committals by the senior district magistrate of *quasi* fraudulent debtors, the numbers being:—

1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
39	71	101	103	103

The offences for which prisoners were committed by the junior district magistrate of Port Louis in 1863 and the four previous years were as follows:—

——	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
Larceny - - -	914	1,157	1,224	1,316	1,292
Petty assaults - -	407	264	248	311	291
Lieence contraventions - -	107	74	49	40	31
Gandia and opium, &c. - -	43	43	23	51	42
Receiving stolen goods - -	12	4	13	11	15
Adultery - - -	2	10	14	20	6
Enticing away married women -	6	12	6	7	2
Other offences - - -	316	288	132	179	391
	1,807	1,852	1,709	1,935	2,070

The changes in this table, which are comparatively slight, do not call for remark. The item of the list at the commencement of this chapter, "Supreme Court, Civil Cases," applies exclusively to debtors. That of criminal cases, "Supreme Court," has been analyzed in the preceding section relative to crime.

The naval and military prisoners are those under sentence by courts-martial, but imprisoned in the central gaol. The maximum number of prisoners in 1863 was 882, and the average daily number in the prison 720. The numbers since 1859 were daily averages.

1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
467	584	714	698	720

The greatest daily average has thus been in 1863. It is much above what the prisons can accommodate (see *infra*) with due regard either to discipline or to sanitary considerations. The number of prisoners under treatment in hospital was 331, or 2·69 per cent. upon the number on the prison books. The deaths were 49, or 2·39 (thirty nine hundredths) per cent. on the number in prison. Of these 35 were vagrants, many of whom were in the last stage of debility and disease when admitted. Happily there was no epidemic in 1863 to swell the list of sick and dead.

The offences against prison rules were 151, of which eight were punished by flogging, and the rest by solitary confinement, working in chains, and curtailing rations. The punishments for breach of discipline since 1859 were as follows:—

——	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
Cases of punishment - -	13	37	48	77	151
Punishment by flogging -	—	3	4	14	8

The higher number of offences in 1863 is attributable to the discipline enforced by the present head keeper being more strict (and rightly so) than under his predecessors; in consequence of which several minor cases of breach of discipline were reported by the subordinate officers under his administration, which there is reason to believe had been formerly overlooked.

The number of escapes of prisoners has been as follows:—

——	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
Escapes - - - -	21	44	51	93	104
Recaptures - - -	5	20	33	54	41

The increased number of escapes in 1863 may in part be attributed to the increased strictness of discipline above referred to. Its chief cause was the unusually large number of prisoners, nearly 600, daily employed at public works out of prison during the year. As the guards to these bands were only in proportion of one to 10 prisoners, many opportunities to escape were taken advantage of, especially when the prisoners passed through the streets to and from their tasks.

It had become necessary to employ so many prisoners at out-door work owing to the municipal corporation having withdrawn its custom from macadam broken within the prison walls; being almost the only kind of hard labour at which the mass of prisoners can be employed. The amount received in the prison for labour of prisoners during the year was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
For net making	69	2	6¾
Mat making	1	0	0
Remaking sugar bags	18	12	4
Tailoring	0	3	0
Tin smiths' work	0	1	0
Sewing, &c. by female prisoners	18	5	9
Picking oakum	98	3	0
Macadam broken in prison	63	0	6
Out-door labour for Government railway contractors	794	14	0
To this should be added, as due by the Municipal Corporation for work not yet paid for	341	12	0
The amount of labour on public works for which no payment on the prison books was 54,006 days' labour, which, at 6*d.* per day, is valued at	1,350	0	0
Total value of labour, exclusive of that required for cleaning, &c. the prison	2,751	14	1¾

It will be seen from the foregoing table that but little skilled labour is done in the prison. This is chiefly owing to the absence of trades instructors, and to the inadequacy of the buildings for carrying out the discipline of a regular reformatory, with its steady employment at handicrafts. It partly arises also from the shortness of most of the sentences.

	£	s.	d.
There was also received in repayment of the cost of military prisoners	36	7	0
And sums were forfeited to the prison funds under prison regulations to the amount of	7	14	10
	44	1	10

The distribution of the labour of the prisoners was as follows:—

Number of days' work which brought actual cash to prison funds	78,187
Of days' work supplied to the Municipal Corporation for which payment was not received, but for which 341*l.* 12*s.* is due, as above noticed	52,356
Of days' labour supplied to the Surveyor General. This valued at 6*d.* per day would be 1,350*l.*	54,006
Of days' labour at necessary employments inside the prison	20,356
Of days' employment at unremunerative work, owing to there being an insufficient demand for prison labour	3,840
Sick and unable to labour in prison days	4,156
Total of days	212,801

The conduct of the prison officers during the year was satisfactory. The chief officer, Mr. Dempsey, deserves to be specially mentioned as an excellent public servant, who has not merely carried on well the general management of the establishment, and enforced a more strict discipline than previously existed, but has originated and carried out several improvements in prison administration. In reviewing generally the central prison during the year 1863, the most striking feature is found to be its inadequacy for the growing necessities of the community, and its insufficiency of reformatory purposes.

An examination by a well qualified committee has shown that with the present dividing walls between the cells it cannot accommodate more than 400 prisoners of all classes; and that if certain changes were made which, while enlarging the cells, would make them inappropriate for separate confinement, the maximum number of their inmates would be 482. As already mentioned, the average during the year was 720, and the maximum 882. The insufficiency of the accommodation is peculiarly felt in the female ward, which consists of one small yard of 47 feet by 43, one third of which is filled up by a cook-house and baths and privies, with three cells, the latter containing together 9,522 cubic feet. In this space there were confined during the day, and would have been during the night, 53 women and 7 children at one time, had not a number been temporarily transferred to one of the wards for male prisoners. The average number of females during the year, but greatly exceeded at some times, was 294, and 4 children.

In this ward also are mixed together all classes of female prisoners untried—those punished for drunkenness and police offences, for petty larceny and adultery, as well as for arson and the gravest felonies; while many of the women are allowed to have their infant children with them, owing to the difficulty of providing otherwise for these.

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

Nor is there even a separate place for female debtors. The latter circumstance occasioned much inconvenience for several months, as it was found improper to force a prisoner of that class to mix with the lowest of her sex. A female debtor had accordingly to be transferred to the debtors' ward, in which there was no place set apart for females, and to have a female warder sub-matron placed over her; and during her confinement she used the same airing-yard as the male debtors—a state of things which, although unavoidable in the circumstances, ought to be remedied without delay. The attention of the Government was called urgently to the subject by the Prison Committee, who suggested several different ways of improving the accommodation, one of these being the erection. outside the town, of a separate female prison, as the first part of a large prison on the panopticon system, which has for some time been under consideration; but owing to pressure of other business on the Surveyor-General's department, the evils thus indicated have not yet been remedied. Regarding the prison arrangements generally, the remarks made in previous annual reports may be repeated, namely, that it is impossible to carry out satisfactorily prison discipline in an establishment where offenders of all classes, old and young alike, as well as untried prisoners and debtors are congregated, and where the arrangement of the wards and cells renders impossible any classification beyond the most crude.

The increase in serious crimes during the year 1863, although it cannot be explained with reference to any weakening during that year in prison discipline, yet makes more urgent the necessity for improvement in the prison system. Unfortunately the position of the prison in the centre of the town, surrounded by buildings and property of great value, puts out of the question the idea of enlarging it to adequate dimensions, with a view to making it a penitentiary or reformatory. Its situation, too, is bad, on sanitary grounds, with regard both to the prison and the town, especially when an epidemic breaks out or settles itself (as cholera has done on two occasions) among the thickly congregated prisoners.

The urgent necessity for some immediate increase in prison accommodation led, in the beginning of 1864, to the transfer of a large proportion (200) of the vagrant prisoners to a vagrant depôt. But this is not nearly adequate to meet the evil, which can only be remedied by the erection of a penitentiary on modern principles outside the town of Port Louis, retaining a small part of the present gaol as a lock-up house for police prisoners. The new prison ought also to contain a reformatory, with industrial training especially for juvenile offenders.

Several good sites for an establishment embracing these objects could be found on the Plaine Lauzan, the situation of which, outside but close to Port Louis, crossed by the Government railway, is good for the purpose, while it can also be abundantly supplied with water from the new canal which runs near to it. Other advantages offered by that situation are that the land is Government property; that all the stone required might be quarried on the spot; while from its vicinity to the Central Gaol, a considerable part of the labour required could be supplied by prisoners.

The cost of erecting such an establishment would be considerable, probably not less than 100,000*l.* But it would be reduced by sales of the part of the prison which would no longer be required, and which, from its central situation and its vicinity to the court house, would bring a higher price.

While thus again reporting, and with increased urgency, the necessity for prison reform, it is still fair to add in conclusion that, considering the great difficulties and disadvantages under which the prison of Port Louis has been administered, its management has been satisfactory, and indicates a progressive improvement.

(Signed) W. G. DICKSON,
Procureur-General.

June 27, 1864.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY, K.C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 77.)

MY LORD DUKE, Mauritius, March 15, 1864.

THE Civil Commissioner's Annual Report for last year on the condition and prospects of the Dependency of Seychelles reached my hands but a few days after I had concluded my Despatch No. 61 of the 24th ultimo, upon the question of the tenure of land in those islands, and it strikes me as bearing so strongly upon the important subject which will thus at the present moment have been brought under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, and as being so generally well worthy of perusal, that I have preferred forwarding a copy of it at once under cover of this communication, to waiting, as is usually done, until the Mauritius Blue Book is prepared.

2. I doubt not that your Grace will look upon the interesting information now furnished by Mr. Ward in respect to the manner in which land was acquired at Seychelles during the interregnum immediately following on the first capture of those islands by the British Government as adding fresh strength to the arguments I have already advanced against a rigid exercise of the prerogative in dealing with the claims of provisional grantees, and it is satisfactory to observe that the obstacles which have been anticipated in defining the boundaries of properties on account of the expense which would be attendant upon taking proper surveys may, in Mr. Ward's opinion, be overcome by amicable arrangements amongst neighbouring proprietors.

3. I feel it my duty, not only in the interests of the inhabitants of Seychelles, but yet more for the sake of the Africans who may in future be taken by our cruizers out of the slave ships on the Mozambique coast, to draw the particular attention of Her Majesty's Government to the 30th and five following paragraphs of his report; from the facts there stated it is perfectly clear that the population of the Seychelles islands is not at present in a condition to contribute in any way towards the moral or material well-being of liberated Africans, and that to free the latter from slavery for the purpose of landing them at Seychelles does little if anything to improve their condition, while for the Seychellars themselves it would be far better that the idle vagrant should be induced to work than that labour should be imported from abroad.

4. In paragraphs 53 to 58 Mr. Ward has reverted to the question already disposed of by my Despatch No. 10 of the 6th January, the enclosures of which had probably not reached him at the date of his communication now enclosed, but he has not yet pointed out any means by which the actual amount of customs duty paid here on articles imported into Seychelles can be charged to the credit of the dependency in the existing state of trade. That those duties would, if correctly calculated, suffice to cover the deficit of revenue which is supposed now to be provided for out of the treasury of Mauritius is a statement which, however confidently asserted by the Civil Commissioner, is not likely to be admitted by the Legislative Council, in the face of the calculations by which the Acting Colonial Secretary and the Acting Collector of Customs have both arrived at a very different conclusion; and to establish beyond dispute what is the actual amount of the revenue thus absorbed by Mauritius on account of Seychelles could perhaps only be effected by levying all the customs duties at Mahé itself, and allowing the Seychelles trader to take articles out of bond free of duty from the custom house at Mauritius.

5. This expedient would entail an increase in the cost of the customs establishment at Seychelles which the revenue would not at present cover, and it is clearly shown by the statements which Mr. Ward makes under the heading "Commerce" that the circumstances of the Dependency are not yet ripe for such a measure, a vicious system of trade being at present carried on, which must give place before the gradual enlightenment and advancement of the inhabitants, as a preliminary condition to any successful interference in this respect on the part of the Government.

6. The remarks offered in paragraphs 60 and 61 of the report on the subject of leprosy will doubtless be found interesting when taken in connection with the opinion expressed with regard to this disease in the medical returns which I had the honour to forward under cover of my Despatch No. 6 of the 5th January last.

7. My own experience in the West Indies furnishes instances similar to that quoted by Mr. Ward, in which Europeans in constant communication with lepers have themselves become affected with the disease, and I entertain no doubt myself that it can be conveyed in certain stages to one, however healthy, who has any open cut or sore on his person.

8. I cannot conclude this Despatch without bringing specially to your Grace's notice the zealous and able manner in which the Civil Commissioner performs his duties, and shows clearly that the interests of the Dependency are safe in his hands.

I have, &c.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

Enclosure.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CIVIL COMMISSIONER.

SEYCHELLES.

(No. 3.)

Civil Commissioner's Office, Seychelles, February 16, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the usual annual returns required for the Blue Book.

2. Your Excellency will be pleased to see that those returns which relate to the financial position of the dependency are of a most satisfactory nature, the revenue for 1863 having exceeded that for 1862 by 200*l.*, and the exportations by 6,778*l.*

3. At the commencement of last year, according to the common opinion of the inhabitants, the islands were on the verge of ruin. They had been visited by a violent hurricane, the first ever known within the archipelago. Half of the town had been swept away by an enormous landslip from the overhanging side of the "Trois Frères" mountain; all the crops of fruit had been lost, and a great number of cocoa-nut trees, the staple cultivation of this island, had been destroyed by the gale; everything was stagnant, and the inhabitants were quite demoralized by the effects of this unprecedented disaster.

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

4. Had it not been for this misfortune the revenue would, doubtless, have been higher. But some good always comes out of evil, and a considerable stimulus has been given to trade in general by the employment of many more artizans and labourers than usual in reconstructing the shattered houses, building walls, and in restoring devastated "emplacements."

5. A considerable reduction in the amount of cocoa-nut oil exported was very generally anticipated, but there is instead an increase of 6,019*l.* in the value of the exports of this article during 1863. This fact, however, is easily explained; the largest and most prolific plantations were fortunately all beyond the vortex of the hurricane, and received little or no injury. Those that suffered most were of small value and chiefly composed of very old trees so thickly planted that they could not thrive properly. The loss under these circumstances will prove an ultimate benefit, as the remaining trees will now have room to expand and bear their due proportion of fruit.

6. The large number blown down was owing to the unusual fragility of the cocoa-nut tree of these islands as compared with that of the south of India or Ceylon. The sheath of the stem is not so hard; the fibre of the husk not nearly so tenacious or strong in staple; and the roots of the tree, which on the other side of the equator descend perpendicularly into the ground to a depth of more than 30 feet, here spread out laterally on all sides, seldom penetrating the earth for more than a foot and a half, its hold is consequently far from firm; it falls an easy victim to even moderate gales; and this arrangement of the roots prevents the ground at the base from being loosened with the plough, a process always productive of fruitful results.

7. The exportation of Vacoa bags has considerably increased, as has also that of tortoiseshell. Tobacco is fast becoming a staple article of exportation, and a small trade is commencing in it with Zanzibar. This is likely to expand, as no American tobacco is now imported into that island, and the fine quality of the Seychelles produce is becoming better known.

8. There is a great falling off in the timber exports, partly owing to the large amount required for repairs in the town during the past year, and partly to its increasing scarcity. Nearly all the wood in the vicinity of the seaboard has been cut down, and though much still remains in the forests situated on the crests and steep sides of the mountains in this island, the difficulty and high cost of its transport to the coast renders it unavailable as an article of commerce, except in the form of shingles. I am making arrangements for utilizing in this way a large number of fallen trees in the Government forests, which up to the present time have been of no value whatever. The only two places where available timber exists to any extent are the islands Silhouette and Félicité; the former private property and the latter in the hands of Government.

Public Works.

9. The principal work performed during the past year has been that of clearing the course of the St. Louis river. I am happy to be able to report that the measures adopted have been quite successful, and that even in unusually heavy rains the waters are entirely confined to the bed marked out for them.

10. When I arrived in December 1862 no course of any kind existed. The landslip had completely obliterated all the upper portion, and had filled it up with huge boulders of granite and vast quantities of coarse detritus, through which the waters filtrated as they could, on their way to the sea. Any ordinary fall of rain caused the river to overflow in many places, and inundate the lower portion of the town.

11. Owing to the nature of the ground it was impossible to change the direction of the waters, and nothing remained but to make a passage through the rugged mass of rocks which choked the original bed. By constant work and by the unceasing employment of every prisoner and available labourer upon it for some months the desired result has been arrived at; and, notwithstanding the very heavy rain that has fallen (on 7th and 8th December 11·83 inches, and on 29th, 30th, and 31st 15·9 inches), no overflow has taken place, and no damage has been done.

12. The work was very heavy with the very small force of labour at my disposal. More than 2,000 feet of mines had to be sunk in the almost impenetrable granite rocks, a labour equal to 10,000 feet in any of the stones found in Mauritius, and not nearly so productive in its results when stone is required for building. Nearly 25,000 tons of granite had to be dragged out, and an enormous mass of detritus removed before the original bottom of the river was arrived at. On each side of the lower portion, where it passes through the town, 1,600 feet of retaining wall, 8 feet high and 5 feet thick, have been built of blocks of granite each weighing many hundredweight, and the original bed has been widened to such an extent that the waters have now ample space to escape to the sea. The town is quite secure, and the inhabitants are again building upon the deserted sites on the river banks.

13. Royal Street, the road to the cemetery, Government Street, Quincy Street, the road leading to the Roman Catholic chapel, all of which were completely broken up in October 1862, have all been put into thorough order, but much still remains to be done before the town is properly arranged, a matter of great difficulty. With very few exceptions, the inhabitants take no trouble whatever about their properties; scarcely one is decently kept; no householder ever erects a fence or builds a "compound" wall; and, as hardly a single house is correct in its alignment with the street, the picturesque is altogether out of the question.

14. In minor repairs to public buildings as much as possible has been done with the very small force of labour at my disposal. The police barracks have been raised and strengthened, five new bridges have been erected, and the foundations together with a wall six feet high have been built round the prison by prison labour, some of the convicts from Mauritius having since my arrival been taught rough masonry. It will, however, be necessary to employ skilled labour to complete

this necessary work to the requisite height, and its speedy accomplishment is important, the prisoners being still only morally restrained from escaping whenever they wish to do so.

15. Extensive progress has been made with the hospital, but the work has been very heavy, owing to the site being covered with the usual masses of granite, rendering extensive blasting necessary; 887 feet of mines have been sunk, 10,800 feet of cutting have been accomplished, and 12,720 feet of foundation walls, 13 feet high and 23 broad, have been built with the broken granite obtained by blasting.

16. The heaviest part of the work is now finished, and the upper portion will be commenced in coral, of which large supplies have been collected and cut, as soon as the heavy rains have ceased. This coral costs very much less than if it had been purchased in the market. I built a large flat boat capable of holding seven tons, with which it is easily and cheaply collected.

17. A small covered canal for the conveyance of water to the prison, police station, and the bazaar in the centre of the town is in course of construction, a work which will be a great blessing to the inhabitants, and which is an absolute necessity for the police station and the prison. Up to the present time no water has ever been laid on to either establishment, the prisoners having been allowed access to the river outside the prison for purposes of personal ablution and for washing their clothes, a practice to which it is most desirable to put an end.

18. The inhabitants have been hitherto solely dependent upon two small and not too clean streams for their scanty diurnal supply of water; and it is difficult to understand how they can have existed so long without making some effort to obtain this greatest of all luxuries in a tropical climate. Their future supply will be obtained from the St. Louis river above the cemetery, as pure in quality as when it left its parent bed.

19. A considerable saving has been effected in the item of lime, always hitherto bought in the market at a most exorbitant price. A kiln has been built, the first ever erected here, and as much lime as is required for the public works can now be made at a very much smaller cost. Had all the lime used up to the present time been bought in the town it would have cost at least 200*l.*

20. The timber used has been procured from the Government forests on Félicité island; but growing trees have been spared, and those blown down or burnt at the base by accidental conflagrations alone worked up. Of these fallen trees sufficient remain to last the Government for many years, care being taken to cut them up and store them before they are affected by exposure. Years, however, elapse before time and weather have any effect upon a fallen tree, a fact which says much in favour of the durability of the wood. One description, "guyac," is equal in every respect to teak; it is easily worked, and has a very close grain. A large amount of this timber is still obtainable, as well as "bois de nattes" of a superior quality to that grown in Mauritius, "tacamacca," an excellent tough wood, especially useful for the knees, ribs, and keels of ships and boats, and "bois d'Almier" a softer kind, suitable for ceilings, partitions, and lining for shingled roofs.

21. As a timber depôt Félicité is a most valuable island, and ought always to be kept in the hands of the Government. It is very hilly, and like most of the other islands of the group covered with masses of granite, in the interstices of which the trees grow. Only a very small portion of it can be cultivated, and on this part there is a small but increasing cocoa-nut plantation. The former guardian, who did nothing, was removed a short time ago, and a new one has been appointed under a new system.

22. While on the subject of public works, I take the opportunity of expressing my thanks for the valuable assistance afforded to me by sending Mr. Sullivan to this dependency as temporary Inspector of Public Works. His practical supervision was what was most required here for the proper economy of time, money, and labour, and I cannot speak too highly of his untiring zeal and efficiency in carrying out every work intrusted to him. Without practical supervision it is impossible, with the very best intentions, to avoid costly errors, and previous to Mr. Sullivan's arrival last July there was nobody in the Seychelles who could give me the smallest assistance, either in supervision or even in the minor details of the works. I had to take all the necessary levels, to strike all the necessary lines, and to keep a constant watch over a body of extremely indolent and unintelligent labourers. This duty not only occupies a good deal of time, but its correct performance requires a peculiar practical knowledge, which, I regret to say, I do not possess to a sufficient extent to be of much real use.

Improvements and necessary Works.

23. Many improvements and extensive repairs are necessary here to complete the proper arrangement of the town. The sea wall, for the repairs of which a sum of 300*l.* was recommended to be set apart from the unappropriated balances, is in a very bad state, urgently requiring heavy repairs, too heavy to accomplish with prison labour, especially with the many calls upon the few men at my command.

24. The harbour is capable of many improvements, but it is difficult to do anything with it under present circumstances. The only pier available at all stages of the tide is the private property of a Company here, but nothing is ever done by the owners towards keeping it in proper repair. A valuable little islet, distant about 200 yards from the head of this pier, and connected with it by a coral reef about three feet below the surface of the water, might be easily joined to it, were both in the hands of the Government, but the "jouissance" of this islet has been granted to a lady who makes no use of it, and does nothing towards its preservation.

25. The pier commenced by Mr. Mylins many years ago, projecting into the sea at the foot of Government Street, will require a very heavy expenditure to make it at all useful, the reef, to the extreme edge of which it was proposed to extend the pier, being nearly half a mile distant. The

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

principal pier ought to be in the hands of the Government, but it would be more economical, as well as more advantageous, to purchase the pier belonging to the private Company, and put it in thorough repair, than to complete the one at the foot of Government Street.

Labour Question.

26. I am happy to be able to report that labour in this dependency is upon a more satisfactory footing at present than it ever has been before, partly on account of the number of Africans brought here at various times, and partly in consequence of the enforcement in a modified degree of the Vagrant Act, never previously put into proper operation in these islands. Its non-recognition has caused much mischief; idleness has been encouraged in lieu of checked, and, with idleness, petty crimes, as usual, multiplied.

27. Previous to my arrival the duties of the police, except with regard to arrests on warrants, and occasional tours in search of contraventions, were wholly confined to the town of Port Victoria and its immediate vicinity. Petty robberies were frequent in all the outlying districts, and owing to constant nocturnal depredations, proprietors had little prospect of reaping where they had sowed. These depredations have been checked to a considerable extent by the continual presence in the interior of two police constables; but a still stronger check has been established by the enforcement of the Vagrant Act.

28. In all parts of the island, especially in the close vicinity of the prosperous plantations, may be seen small huts built on a minute patch of quasi-cultivated land. In some of these huts as many as 15 or 20 people reside, refusing to work, and with no ostensible means of gaining a livelihood. They live upon their richer neighbours, and do no good to themselves or to anybody else.

29. It is with this class of dissolute idlers that the Vagrant Act chiefly deals, and such as have any land are now obliged to cultivate it in order to gain a living or else to seek regular employment, a measure which will prove most beneficial to the dependency, by checking robberies, bringing more land into cultivation, and increasing the supply of labour. The fact of this class being compelled to work will, I venture to think, prove much more advantageous to the country than the introduction of the African element.

Liberated Africans.

30. As a general rule the arrival of Africans has done more harm than good to the dependency. It has caused, if possible, an increased idleness among the lower class of creoles, themselves but little superior to Africans in mental and physical attributes. A large portion of those brought here, from want of proper tuition and supervision, have turned out nearly useless, and should another cargo arrive it will be nearly impossible to distribute them properly, especially if there are many grown up men and women among them.

31. For boys and girls there are plenty of applications, but hardly any one will accept a full grown man, and nobody will have anything to do with the women. The younger Africans with care, attention, and at a distance from the evil example of the town may become eventually useful members of society; but it is difficult to deal with the men, whose ideas and habits are fixed, and whose indolence is too deeply rooted to be changed by the kind of masters to whom they are assigned. The adult women are quite horrible,—nothing will induce them to work, they have no shame of any kind, and the life they lead in the town is most disgraceful.

32. I am strongly of opinion that it would be highly advisable to request the Admiral commanding on the Cape station to direct the captains of Her Majesty's ships cruizing for the suppression of slave trade on the east coast of Africa to bring no more liberated Africans to Seychelles. Proprietors in many instances are not deserving of the assistance already afforded to them, if assistance it can be called, and many estates upon which Africans are now employed will be quite deserted by them as soon as their terms of engagement are completed.

33. Many of these men are anxious to return to Zanzibar, preferring Arab to creole masters. Some of these, however, were free men, who, as is frequently the case, had been kidnapped by the slave dealers, and put on board a dhow just before it sailed. The fact of any being anxious to return puts the slave trade question on the east coast in quite a novel light.

34. There is no doubt that slavery among eastern nations is a very different thing from slavery in more civilized countries and under white masters. On the west coast of Africa the slaves are embarked for the Spanish and South American plantations, where, after undergoing the horrors of the middle passage, they are doomed to a life of perpetual toil and hardship. On the east coast they are destined for the Persian and Muscat markets, and though they too, owing to the vigilance of our cruizers, have to undergo a middle passage, their future is comparatively bright. The life they lead in Oriental servitude is principally as domestic servants in the larger households, out-of-door labour being rarely, if ever, assigned to them.

35. The women, I am informed, look upon the Persian market much in the same light as a Circassian woman does that of Constantinople, where the successful sale of a young female enriches and comforts her whole family, and is the highest ambition of the purchased slave herself.

Titles to Property.

36. The tenure upon which a large portion of the properties in these islands are now held is a question deserving the serious consideration of the Government in its own interest, in justice to the proprietors and in justice to the land. A great number of proprietors have no regular titles, though they have been in some instances in possession of the land for many years, a peculiar state of things which requires some explanation.

37. When these islands were first taken from the French in 1795 by Captain Newcome of the "Orpheus," he did not know what to do with them, and as a final resource requested the French Commandant, who had just capitulated, to continue the administration under the British flag. Between this period and the date of their formal cession to the British Government the English had merely a nominal right to them, they were French to all intents and purposes, except on the occasion of the presence in the harbour of an English man-of-war, when the British flag was hoisted as a matter of form. Several years after their capture a number of political prisoners, all those implicated in a conspiracy against the life of the First Consul, were sent here from France, and all administrative matters were carried out under French instructions and upon French principles.

38. Many provisional grants were made with no possibility of those to whom land was granted putting themselves "en règle"; and before any English official came here, nearly all the most valuable land had been disposed of, the seaboard, the most valuable in permanence, and the "second line," further inland, at the foot of the mountains which cover the interior of nearly all the islands of the group, on provisional concessions,—such concessions being always worded "until such time "as the formal title be delivered."

39. Up to the present time, until the Surveyor-General initiated proceedings at the commencement of last year, no steps have ever been taken for placing proprietors "en règle." Properties have frequently changed hands under deeds of transfer and notarial sales, without the last holder being aware that the onus of obtaining a formal title vested with him whenever an opportunity should present itself. They were never officially directed to take this step until last year, and the majority of the inhabitants were quite ignorant of what was legally required with respect to their titles.

40. The usual paper held by a proprietor as a voucher of legal possession is a letter from the Commandant for the time being in answer to a petition praying for a concession. This letter informs him that a provisional concession has been granted, and that a survey of the conceded land has been ordered. These answers were usually written upon the petition itself, and the petition as a rule upon the worst kind of French paper. Many proprietors have only remnants of these papers, some only copies, and in a few instances none at all. Usually the procès verbal accompanies the letter of concession, but this is frequently wanting.

41. It is very important that confirmed titles should be given to the inhabitants in lieu of these unsatisfactory documents, and it appears to me that the simplest mode of arranging the question will be to allow it to be settled on the spot, subject to eventual approval and confirmation by the Government. The procès verbaux can be easily examined and rectified, if necessary, the boundaries can be settled by the consent and signatures of the adjoining proprietors, and should any difficulty arise it could be easily got over by personal investigation. In cases where a fresh survey is necessary, such survey should be made at the expense of the proprietor. A complete survey of the ground, as contemplated at one time by the Government, would cost between 3,000*l.* and 4,000*l.*

42. The new title should be given to the proprietors at a much lower price than is usually paid in Mauritius, owing to the peculiar circumstances of the case, the reduced value of land, the protracted inaction on the part of the Government, and the ignorance of the majority of the inhabitants with regard to the validity of their documents. Some of the smaller landholders could not afford to pay the usual price, and as it is difficult to make any distinction in the issue of titles, it will be best to put the one cost at a moderate limit.

43. Legalization of titles will increase the value of property, and give besides a feeling of security, which will doubtless aid in causing proprietors to make the most of their land by cultivation. The final settlement of this question will give more satisfaction to these peculiar people than the introduction of any other measure, no matter how beneficial.

Commerce.

44. One of the great drawbacks to advancement here is the miserable mode in which all the general trade of the dependency is carried on. The merchants, if such minor traders can be called merchants, are all in the hands of agents in Mauritius, and are consequently obliged to receive everything sent to them from Port Louis, without being in a position to complain of the quality or price. They can never deal at wholesale warehouses, and never combine together in order to arrive at a cheaper mode of conducting their affairs and making their purchases.

45. The shops here are supplied with the refuse of the Mauritius market, where everything, though of a most inferior quality, even for a colony, is sold at double its original cost in Europe. Freight between Port Louis and Seychelles is always 2*l.* per ton, a larger freight than is paid for the conveyance of goods between England and Mauritius; several commissions have to be paid upon the various importations, and a profit to the seller brings their cost here up to 150 per cent. above the heavy Mauritius price.

46. These inferior goods are often forced upon the poorer classes in lieu of money payments for labour, an arrangement which has done much to injure the labour market, by deterring many from working who would have done so for regular wages paid in money.

47. The only articles now produced in the Seychelles for home comsumption consist of rum, salt fish, farinaceous roots, and cocoa-nut oil; no petty trades of any description exist, and the people are wholly dependent upon extraneous sources for their supplies of every kind. Any measure calculated to open the present restricted trade would be of immense benefit to the country and to the people. This will depend solely upon private enterprise, but I trust that the representations I have made in various quarters will aid in establishing a regular trade on a proper system between the Seychelles, Bombay, Zanzibar, and eventually England.

48. A great deal might be done here by one man of enterprise, energy, and with a small capital. Several large tracts of marshy ground might be planted with rice, as in former days, when no rice

MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES.

was ever imported and the islands were quite independent of foreign supplies. A small quantity is still grown in Ladigne island, but its general cultivation has long since been abandoned in this and the adjacent islands. Cotton can be produced in large quantities with but little trouble and at a small outlay. All that is required to stimulate and encourage its cultivation is the establishment of a market for the purchase of uncleaned cotton in large or small quantities.

49. Fibres of various kinds are most abundant. Plantains (musa rosacea) grow rapidly and luxuriantly. The sides of the hills are covered with pine apples and aloes (yucca gloriosa), the fibres of which are worth from 50*l.* to 90*l.* per ton. A large amount of these might be collected at but a small expense, and their growth is so rapid that the supply could scarcely fail. Large quantities of the "Var" can also be easily and cheaply obtained. This fibre is coarse but the strongest known, and a rope made from it is almost unbreakable. It is of this substance that the wonderfully tough ropes used in Central Africa as hippopotamus harpoon lines are always made.

50. None of these substances are ever utilized here. Even the valuable husk of the cocoa-nut is thrown away as useless, the value of coir being quite unknown, except as an article of fuel and for burning the granite rocks where blasting is impracticable. The strong fierce flame causes even enormous boulders to split in all directions. I have lately employed the female prisoners in picking and preparing coir, a measure which will make their labour of much more value than it has ever been previously. In future all the lines and ropes used on the public works will be made in the prison at a very small expense.

51. The low commercial standard of the inhabitants is owing in a great measure to the absence of education among all classes of society. A very large proportion of even the better class can neither read or write, many of the traders are unable to keep their own accounts, and in the best houses, with the exception of a prayer-book or breviary, no books or papers are ever seen. A Roman Catholic school has been established of late years, in which the Sœurs de Charité officiate as teachers, doing, as usual, a great deal of good.

52. The Protestant schools are miserably useless; indeed, the Protestant religion and the Protestant schools are upon as low a standard as is consistent with actual existence. The Protestants are nearly all of the very lowest class, and nobody will pay anything for the education of the children. Notwithstanding the reports of the Missionary Societies, the real state of religious matters in this dependency is melancholy indeed; except perhaps in the way of a slight advance and improvement upon actual heathenism, no progress has been made, nor is there much prospect of progress under the present aspect of educational affairs. Without education, civilization and its usual moral accompaniments can never be attained among semi-barbarous people, and without extraneous assistance and a much higher class of preceptor nothing can be hoped for in the Seychelles.

53. With regard to the general policy adopted for carrying out the administration of affairs in the dependency, it would, I have the honour to suggest, be much more satisfactory if all its available resources were placed at the disposal of the Civil Commissioner, subject of course to all the usual regulations for the expenditure of public monies. This arrangement, could it be accomplished, would render unnecessary the present frequent appeals for pecuniary assistance caused by the absorption in Mauritius of our lucrative custom duties, appeals which cause the dependency to be looked upon as hopelessly insolvent by those who do not clearly understand its actual financial position.

54. That they are not at all insolvent will be evident to all who take the trouble to investigate this position. The Government having been pleased to approve of my recommendation for the reduction of the former enormous police force, a saving in this item has been effected to the amount of 616*l.* per annum. The extra duty on rum, taking the average annual consumption at 10,000 gallons (in 1863, 10,638 gallons), will give an increase of 1,750*l.*

55. Were this sum paid in Port Victoria, it would, combined with that gained by the police reduction, increase the revenue to such an extent that no demand for money need be made upon Mauritius for ordinary local expenditure, not including the cost of the hospital and the extensive repairs to public buildings provided for in the estimates for the current year, repairs which with ordinary care would never have been necessary.

56. But under the present system of affairs relating to the customs, and taking into consideration the fact that the future supply of rum will be derived from Mauritius, the whole of the increase, together with the usual revenue from the sale of spirits, will be appropriated in Port Louis with all the other custom duties. The dependency will be apparently more insolvent than ever, and the demands for money much more frequent.

57. With clearly defined assets, it is evident that the dependency is in reality quite prosperous, and has consequently almost a political right to expend the money derived from its own resources upon obviously necessary local improvements and wants, and if a considerable balance is shown after the payment of all ordinary expenses, it is but just that the dependency, so long neglected and mismanaged, should have the full benefit of it.

58. Should this not be deemed advisable, it ought at all events to be clearly understood that the position of the Seychelles is not the miserable one that has hitherto been assigned to it; that it is not in any way an incubus upon the parent Colony, and that the prevailing notion of its hopeless insolvency—a notion which has done much harm generally, and been a serious drawback to trade—is wholly fictitious.

Health of Inhabitants.

59. The general health of the inhabitants has been very good; indeed it would be impossible to find a more healthy spot at so short a distance from the equator. The thermometer rarely shows a greater height than 85°, and the heat is always tempered by a cool sea breeze unimpregnated with any miasmatic elements. The births during the past year amount to 275, the deaths to 158, or

2¼ per cent., 110 less than in the preceding year, and a very small average for a tropical country where cleanliness is quite unknown, where vast quantities of pork and salt fish are daily eaten, and where the average annual consumption of rum, fresh from the still and proportionately rank, is nearly a gallon and a half for every man, woman, and child.

60. The principal ailments in these islands are dysentery, easily treated if taken in time, but very fatal if neglected, and some hideous varieties of cutaneous diseases, from leprosy downwards. The number of lepers now on the books of the establishment at Curieuse is only five, but this is no criterion as to the actual amount of existing leprosy. In this country it is always "tubercular," and its development, though sure, is most insidious. Those afflicted with it will never in the early stages allow that anything is the matter with them, and cannot be persuaded to undergo a regular course of treatment at the hands of the Government Medical Officer. The dreadful result is only a question of time, but no decided opinion can be arrived at here respecting the rapidity of its progress, its amenability to medical treatment, or its contagiousness. The latter indeed admits of so much latitude of argument that it is difficult to feel convinced that the fearful objects seen here, with all the facial integuments eaten away, and with but sloughing remnants of fingers and toes, are comparatively innocuous.

61. I may mention too, with reference to the opinion of the majority of medical men, that this terrible malady is *not* contagious, that Dr. Robertson, formerly in medical charge of the Curieuse Leper Establishment, was himself an unmistakeable leper. The disease was not in a very advanced stage, but of its presence there was no doubt whatever.

62. Nothing has occurred to disturb the harmony of the dependency during the past year, and I have received the most cordial co-operation from all the public officers now stationed here.

63. In conclusion, I beg to offer my most grateful thanks for all the aid afforded to me, and for the consideration and support given to all the measures which I have from time to time submitted for the approval of the Government. This support has been a great encouragement, and I shall use my utmost endeavours to continue to deserve it.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor of Mauritius,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) SWINBURNE WARD,
Civil Commissioner.

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

THE

REPORTS

Made for the Year 1863 *to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies; in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1863.

PART II.

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES;
AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA;
AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND;
EASTERN COLONIES; AND
THE MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS, &c.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
April 1865.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1865.

10878.

SCHEDULE.

PART II.

No. in Series.	Colony.	Page.
	NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.	
1	Canada	4
2	Nova Scotia	21
3	New Brunswick	21
4	Prince Edward Island	25
5	Newfoundland	27
6	Bermuda	27
7	British Columbia.	28
8	Vancouver Island	29
	AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.	
9	Sierra Leone	32
10	Gambia	33
11	Gold Coast. (Not received.)	
12	Cape of Good Hope	39
13	Natal	40
14	Lagos	40
15	St. Helena	46
	AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.	
16	New South Wales	48
17	Queensland	49
18	Victoria	65
19	Tasmania	72
20	South Australia	80
21	Western Australia	102
22	New Zealand. (Not received.)	
	EASTERN COLONIES.	
23	Ceylon	108
24	Hong Kong	145
25	Labuan	148
	MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS.	
26	Gibraltar	150
27	Malta	151
28	Heligoland. (Not received.)	
29	Falkland Islands	154

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

CANADA.

CANADA.

No. 1.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Viscount MONCK to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 31.)

SIR, Quebec, January 26th, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Canadian Blue Book for 1863. The delay in forwarding it has been caused by a change amongst the Officers of the Department whose duty it is to prepare it. The Blue Book had, in consequence of this change, been arranged hastily and in an inaccurate manner, and it was necessary that it should be returned to the proper officer to be corrected and completed.

I have, &c.

The Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) MONCK.

To His Excellency The Right Honourable CHARLES STANLEY, Viscount MONCK, Governor General of British North America, &c., &c., &c.

May it please Your Excellency:

The undersigned has the honour to present to your Excellency the Public Accounts for the year 1863, together with the Report of the Board of Audit thereon.

All which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) L. H. HOLTON,
Minister of Finance.

Quebec, 20th February, 1864.

SIR, Audit Office, Quebec, Feb. 13, 1864.

THE public accounts for the year 1863, which we have the honour to submit to you, exhibit a more favourable balance than has been the case for several years past. The five great sources of revenue, the Customs, Excise, Public Works, Post Office, and Territorial Revenue, have together produced $7,662,490.98, which exceed the receipts from the same sources in 1862 by $1,104,961.00; the minor revenues of the Consolidated Fund have realized $914,821.02, being an increase upon 1862 of $119,335.10; and the receipts of the Trust Funds and other open accounts have been $1,183,004.34, which is an increase of $127,575.76. Whilst the revenue has thus increased in the aggregate $1,351,871.86, there has been a diminution of expenditure to the extent of $228,873.47, making a total of $1,580,745.33; but in spite of this great improvement upon 1862, there is still a serious deficiency, although very much less than was estimated.

Expenditure, less Redemption of Debt - -	$10,742,807.41
Receipts, less sale of Debentures and Sinking Fund -	9,760,316.34
Deficiency - -	$982,491.07

We have made one change in the form in which the accounts are exhibited. When the Public Accounts for the year 1858 first gave a statement of the receipts and payments of the year from all sources, instead of those only belonging to the Consolidated Fund, as had been the previous practice, it was thought desirable for the purposes of comparison, still to show the receipts and payments of the Consolidated Fund separately, and to classify the others according as they were on account of Trust Funds, Guaranteed Accounts, &c., and the Statement No. 3, in which this abstract was given, became thus complicated with six columns. It does not appear to us that any useful purpose is served by continuing this cumbrous form any longer, and we think that it will be sufficient to make a simpler division, placing in one column the expenditure charged, or which will ultimately be charged against the Consolidated Fund, and in another, that which is carried to open accounts in the ledger, a characteristic which is common to all those accounts which were formerly subdivided into three classes. the limits of which were not very clearly defined.

For the same reason we have thought it unnecessary to retain the column of Unprovided Items, a detailed statement of which is given elsewhere in the volume. The receipts are classified upon the same principle.

By great exertion, the Public Accounts are ready to submit to Parliament more than a month earlier than was ever the case before; but this has only been possible by having a large part of them printed off, before the receipt of the accounts from the London agents, and from many of the sub-accountants in Canada, had enabled the ledger for the year to be finally closed and balanced. This has been the source of much additional labour and anxiety, of greatly increased liability to error, and we desire to renew the suggestion made last year, that, if an early meeting of Parliament is desired, some change should be made in the termination of the financial year.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN LANGTON, Auditor.
WM. DICKINSON, Deputy Inspector General.
R. S. M. BOUCHETTE, Commissioner of Customs.

To the Honourable Luther H. Holton,
Minister of Finance.

Comparative Statement of the Entire Payments and

PAYMENTS.	1861.	1862.	1863.
	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
Interest on Public Debt	3,735,789 05	3,774,314 65	3,717,733 85
Charges of Management	67,298 91	52,076 65	42,638 36
Exchange	26,666 70	20,754 12	19,611 14
Sinking Fund	119,391 79	166,975 33	182,743 32
Redemption of Public Debt	2,738,872 21	279,830 66	4,166,375 10
Premium and Discount	13,441 35	7,098 03	32,530 66
Civil Government	437,285 49	486,620 04	430,527 47
Administration of Justice, East	350,557 54	346,375 78	364,785 72
Do. West	320,176 55	318,312 23	330,530 32
Police	30,548 20	31,179 36	30,831 34
Penitentiary, Reformatories, and Prison Inspection	148,046 55	155,612 03	152,190 60
Legislation	463,124 57	432,048 19	627,377 92
Education, East	259,601 91	260,298 75	254,317 86
do West	247,192 11	273,271 06	274,112 68
Literary and Scientific Societies	17,900 00	16,800 00	14,300 00
Hospitals and Charities	272,041 55	307,686 71	250,942 25
Geological Survey	20,315 09	17,400 00	23,650 00
Militia and Enrolled Force	84,687 60	98,444 70	481,116 17
Arts, Agriculture, and Statistics	2,317 00	17,472 01	11,421 82
Census	118,393 77	24,648 46	12,629 24
Agricultural Societies	102,620 21	108,348 58	105,696 11
Emigration and Quarantine	48,435 57	54,323 56	57,406 32
Pensions	34,509 38	42,473 03	40,460 49
Indian Annuities	35,420 00	26,620 00	43,820 00
Public Works and Buildings	1,036,240 45	421,053 03	474,712 40
Rents, Repairs, &c. do	39,572 05	97,041 71	39,247 07
Roads and Bridges	181,668 81	259,582 99	119,627 72
Ocean and River Steam Service	432,022 73	507,944 48	511,356 40
Light House and Coast Service	110,462 08	103,522 14	102,724 75
Fisheries	27,342 00	25,215 76	22,758 41
Redemption of Seigniorial Rights	224,133 46	379,849 22	222,608 12
Culling Timber	68,399 06	68,576 03	76,827 04
Railway and Steamboat Inspection	15,113 17	15,020 40	10,577 81
Advances	411,668 43	223,462 02	89,518 78
Municipalities Fund, East and West	445,314 27	313,384 58	142,333 86
Indian Fund	99,726 07	112,819 35	131,939 55
Subsidiary Lines	340,000 00	80,590 00	—
Reception of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales	63,225 29	—	—
Miscellaneous	45,849 91	64,099 20	68,469 26
Collection of Revenue :			
Customs	363,401 44	379,402 81	364,947 83
Excise	31,779 87	35,173 74	36,613 58
Post Office	442,521 19	436,586 51	431,906 71
Public Works	279,006 92	313,823 47	236,761 91
Territorial	277,503 93	135,797 75	79,767 67
Fines and Forfeitures	14,380 59	11,716 99	7,627 82
Minor Revenues	1,092 00	754 14	413 03
Special Funds	97,777 46	91,523 31	70,694 05
Total Payments	14,742,834 28	11,395,923 56	14,909,182 51

AUDIT OFFICE, QUEBEC, January 1864.

Receipts of the Province, in the Years 1861, 1862, and 1863.

RECEIPTS.	1861.	1862.	1863.
	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
Ordinary Revenues.			
Customs	4,774,562 26	4,652,183 06	5,171,080 32
Excise	344,665 14	500,313 52	829,801 77
Post Office	357,015 40	391,443 07	438,864 16
Ocean Postage	100,709 45	17,274 14	0 00
Public Works	324,619 63	383,704 21	539,948 99
Provincial Steamers	30,578 35	37,756 98	35,874 07
Territorial	678,922 82	629,886 12	682,795 74
Casual	22,124 39	11,201 09	11,813 60
Quebec Loan	685 26	6 92	294 65
Interest on Investments	489,304 91	394,745 94	362,769 70
Premium and Discount	18,932 67	3,373 31	157,754 04
Bank Imposts	52,374 95	26,421 90	15,417 68
Law Fees	32,514 84	30,267 28	29,524 00
Fines and Forfeitures	24,283 39	22,340 67	14,359 34
Special Revenues.			
Law Fees, Lower Canada	82,480 11	70,276 68	91,731 77
Do. Upper Canada	40,826 77	44,198 84	50,535 43
River Police	12,890 25	10,645 72	14,099 54
Mariners Fund	14,255 18	11,778 56	14,373 24
Passenger Duty (Emigration and Quarantine)	19,112 00	21,341 00	18,039 00
Railroad and Steamboat Inspection	23,372 33	10,265 97	10,450 95
Fisheries	7,371 85	8,824 61	7,170 80
Shipping Office Fees	860 00	826 00	653 00
Cullers Office Fees	67,304 25	73,940 31	79,960 21
Debentures, &c.			
Debentures and Stock	2,756,305 59	2,220,759 99	1,702,191 66
Imperial Sinking Fund	—	—	2,920,000 00
Sales of Public Works	7,696 99	1,362 10	3,228 33
Guaranteed and Advance Accounts.			
Municipal Loan Fund, Upper Canada	186,309 00	123,849 20	184,362 62
Do. Lower Canada	93,078 47	6,224 37	170,392 44
Quebec Fire Loan	4,814 55	3,489 29	6,424 05
Law Society	19,936 47	16,312 34	13,341 11
Court Houses, Lower Canada	24,224 47	28,163 19	25,392 81
Upper Canada Building Fund	29,169 30	27,738 00	29,943 28
Great Western Railway, Interest Account	24,160 00	24,150 00	25,052 48
Northern Railway, Interest Account	475 00	—	14,125 00
Grand Trunk Railway, Postal Subsidy Account	—	—	39,966 48
Do. Advance Account	1,000 00	—	0 00
Do. Special Account	—	2,567 62	0 00
New Coinage	4,803 27	—	0 00
Ocean Steam Company	189,619 98	1,225 00	0 00
Improvement Fund, Advance Account	—	3,486 80	0 00
Montreal Harbour Commission	—	—	22,200 00
Investment ex Consolidated Canadian Loan	867,749 38	60,000 00	21,368 41
Consolidated Fund, Investment Account	8,900 00	124,898 63	7,781 68
Trust Funds.			
Tavern Licences	3,400 99	3,886 60	3,962 15
Lower Canada Building and Jury Fund	—	2,892 53	29,710 68
Municipalities Fund, West	298,049 24	177,021 41	132,695 48
Do. East	26,976 07	24,916 79	38,752 38
Education, West	22,110 74	14,668 20	7,887 73
Do East	27,750 13	18,167 10	35,953 07
Common School Fund	111,594 25	207,393 53	128,240 25
Indian Fund	256,629 02	165,789 57	223,409 94
Copy Right Duties	999 67	826 30	672 52
Indemnity to Revenue Inspectors	141 55	—	341 45
Trust Fund Investment Account	24,400 00	16,400 01	16,800 00
Bursar of University	1,109 13	—	0 00
Quebec Bishopric	41,878 68	—	0 00
Provident Savings Bank	102,533 34	—	0 00
Total Receipts	12,655,581 48	10,629,204 47	14,382,508 00

(Signed) LANGTON, Auditor.

CANADA.

To the Hon. L. H. Holton, M.P.,
Minister of Finance.

Finance Department,
Customs, March 28th, 1864.

SIR,

I BEG leave to lay before you the Trade and Navigation Tables of the Province for the year 1863, compiled from the returns transmitted to this office by the collectors of the various branches of the revenue arising from customs, excise, and canal tolls.

The whole importations for 1863 amount in value to $45,964,493.

Of which were imported—

From Great Britain	$20,177,572
„ British Colonies	642,908
„ the United States	23,109,362
„ other Foreign Countries	2,034,651

The total amount of the importations, classed with reference to duties and exemptions, shows the following result, viz. :—

Value of Dutiable Goods	$22,938,270
Free Goods, other than Coin and Bullion	18,373,936
Coin and Bullion	4,652,287

Compared with 1862, there has been a falling off in the importations, as follows :—

The decrease has been—

From Great Britain	$1,001,740	
„ the United States	2,063,795	
		3,065,535
The increase—		
From the British Colonies	$68,588	
„ Foreign Countries other than U. S.	360,807	
		429,395
Showing an aggregate decrease of		$2,636,140

The collections, however, owing to the increased duties on tea, coffee, sugar, and molasses, imposed in June 1862, compare more favourably with the past year, the revenue from customs for 1862 having been $4,652,748, against $5,169,173 for 1863, or an increase of $516,425.

The exports of the province are shown to have amounted in 1863, to $41,831,532, an increase of upwards of $8,000,000 over 1862. This large increase is chiefly referrable to the exports of timber and lumber, that item alone, under the head of produce of the forest, having exceeded by more than $4,000,000, the exports of the preceding year.

It is also worthy of note, as indicative of the prosperity of one important branch of the industry of the province, that, whilst the value of ships built and exported at Quebec in 1862 amounted to only $988,428, it rose in 1863 to $2,287,901, showing an increase in the latter over the former year of $1,299,473, or rather more than 131 per cent.

The returns of distillation and brewing show a decrease in the manufacture both of spirits and malt liquors, viz. :—

Spirits distilled in 1862	3,875,073 galls.
„ „ 1863	3,661,668 „
Less in 1863	153,405 „
Malt liquors in 1862	5,920,296 galls.
„ „ 1863	5,566,623 „
Less in 1863	353,673 „

The decrease in the distillation of spirits may be accounted for by the fact that 32 distilleries were partially or wholly closed during the year, whilst the falling off in the manufacture of malt liquors may, to some extent, be explained by the suspended operations of 27 breweries in Upper Canada, in which section of the province the decrease is shown by the returns to have been 437,023 galls., the increase in Lower Canada being 83,350 galls.

The average yield of spirits per bushel of grain, as returned by the collectors of inland revenue, shows some improvement this year upon the product of last year, viz. :—

In 1862, yield per bushel	$2\frac{1}{12}$ galls.
In 1863, „ „	$2\frac{1}{3}$ „

With regard to the trade of the provincial canals, a glance at the two comparative statements, Nos. 11 and 12, will show that there has been some falling off in the movement of goods on the Welland and St. Lawrence Canals in 1863, as compared with 1862, the decrease on the Welland being 8.26°/₀, and on the St. Lawrence 7.19°/₀; compared, however, with 1860, the increase on the Welland has been 20.73°/₀, and on the St. Lawrence 22.19°/₀. On the Chambly Canal, the increase in 1863 over 1862 was 37.45°/₀, and over 1860, 16.67°/₀.

The average decrease of the movement of property on the six canals in 1863, compared with 1862, is a fraction less than 2°/₀; but when compared with 1860, the six canals show an aggregate increased traffic of 18.13°/₀.

The tolls, wholly abrogated in May 1860, on the St. Lawrence, Burlington Bay, and Ottawa canals were re-imposed on the 13th April 1863.

The gross collections from tolls on all the provincial canals in 1863, amounted to $385,220.21, in 1862, to $213,487.41, representing the tolls collected on the Welland and Chambly canals only, the other canals being free.

All which is humbly submitted.

R. S. M. BOUCHETTE,
Commissioner of Customs and Excise.

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE MILITIA OF THE PROVINCE.

Under the provisions of the Militia Law, passed during the last session of Parliament, the necessary steps have been taken for the organization, in 1864, of the battalions of service militia, contemplated by the Legislature. An organization so differing in detail from the militia system in existence prior to the passing of that law, has necessitated a considerable amount of labour in the preparation of the machinery necessary for calling these battalions into existence. The enrolment of the names of persons liable to do militia service is now being taken in the several regimental divisions by the officers specially charged to perform that duty by the Legislature, with a view to these rolls being in readiness for delivery to the boards to be organized under section 23, "for the purpose of balloting from the names appearing on the 'service rolls,' or the 'reserve roll,' as the case may be, for the requisite number of men to form a battalion or battalions of the regiment, as may be required by the Commander-in-Chief."

The schools for the military instruction of all candidates for commissions in the service militia have been duly provided for, in connexion with regiments of Her Majesty's forces stationed in the garrison towns of Quebec and Toronto. In November last, a copy of the following circular was addressed from this office to each of the brigade-majors, and was afterwards made public throughout the province:—

CIRCULAR.

"I am desired by his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to acquaint you that, so soon as the necessary arrangements can be completed, the School of Instruction for candidates for commissions in the 'service' battalions of militia authorized by section 52 of the Militia Act of last session, will be opened for the reception of such candidates under the following regulations:—

"1. All officers under the age of 45 years, at present holding commissions in the 'Non-Service (Sedentary) Militia, are eligible as candidates for commissions in the 'Service' Militia; but candidates are not confined to persons now holding such commissions.

"2. All candidates for commissions in the 'Service' Militia, will be required, before appointment, to obtain a certificate, as herein-after mentioned, from one of the commandants of the School of Instruction; and no person shall be appointed or promoted to the rank of field officer in the 'Service' Militia, who shall not have obtained a 'first class' certificate.

"3. A 'first class' certificate shall be given to those candidates who shall have proved themselves, to the satisfaction of the commandant of the School of Instruction, able to drill and handle a battalion in the field, and who shall have acquired a competent acquaintance with the internal economy of a battalion.

"4. A 'second class' certificate shall be given to those candidates who shall have proved themselves able to command a company at battalion drill, and to drill a company at 'company's drill.'

"5. No certificate of either class shall be given to any candidate who is not himself perfectly drilled as a private soldier.

"6. No candidate shall be permitted to remain at the school for a longer period than three calendar months from the date of his entry.

"7. The actual travelling expenses of all candidates in coming to and returning to their homes from the school shall be paid.

"8. All candidates, on obtaining a 'second class' certificate, shall be paid the sum of 50 dollars, and on obtaining a 'first class' certificate, the further sum of 50 dollars in addition.

"9. All candidates for commissions, while attending the school, shall be considered for all purposes of drill and discipline to be attached to the regiment which shall constitute the School of Instruction; and it shall be competent to the Commander-in-Chief, on a representation from the commandant, to dismiss any candidates from the school for misconduct or other sufficient cause.

"10. Candidates for commissions, while attending the school, shall not be members of the mess of the regiment which constitutes the school.

"11. Candidates for admission to the school will require to make written application to the brigade-major of the division, accompanying such letter with certificates from clergymen or magistrates in the locality where he lives, that the applicant is of correct habits and respectable character, and further, with satisfactory evidence that he is a British subject either by birth or naturalization.

"I am desired to request that you will make known these regulations to the officers of the 'Non Service' (Sedentary) Militia and others within your district, who may be desirous to become candidates for commissions in the 'Service' Militia, and to return to me a list of such candidates as may

CANADA.

offer themselves to you, in order that their names may be submitted to his Excellency for selection, to attend the School of Instruction.

"You will particularly draw the attention of the candidates to the fact that no fixed period of attendance at the School of Instruction is required in order to enable candidates to qualify for either class of certificate.

"What is insisted upon is knowledge, however acquired, of the drill and economy of a company for a 'Second Class,'—of that of a battalion for a 'First Class' certificate.

"If candidates shall have acquired, before they come to the School of Instruction, a knowledge of company's drill, they may be able in a very short time after their entrance at the school, to entitle themselves to a 'Second Class' certificate, with the attendant gratuity of fifty dollars, and may then devote the larger portion of their time at the school to the acquisition of the knowledge necessary, in order to obtain a 'First Class' certificate, with the further additional gratuity of fifty dollars, and eligibility for the rank of Field Officer in the 'Service' Militia.

"His Excellency trusts that candidates for commissions will avail themselves, before they shall be summoned to attend the School of Instruction, of the opportunities of perfecting themselves in company's drill, which are afforded by the Drill Association and Drill Instructors through the Province, and thus enable themselves and the public service to reap the largest possible amount of benefit from the institution of the schools of instruction.

"The period of three months is fixed as the limit beyond which no candidate shall be allowed to remain at the school, because the length of time is sufficient, in the opinion of competent authorities, to enable a person of average ability to acquire the amount of knowledge demanded."

Since the above Circular has been made public, the names of 460 applicants from both sections of the province for permission to attend the schools have been transmitted to this office by the several Brigade-Majors, and from the applications so transmitted a selection of names has been made, under the direction of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, with a view to the candidates thus selected being admitted to the schools, at their first opening, which it has been arranged shall take place in each section on the first day of March next.

VOLUNTEER MILITIA.

The corps of volunteers, as to numbers, remain as reported in 1863, viz.:—

Lower Canada - - - - -	10,230
Upper Canada - - - - -	14,780
Total - -	25,010

These, under the instructions received from the drill sergeants detailed for this purpose, have made considerable progress in drill and in acquiring a knowledge of the use of the rifle.

Formed, as the force is to a large extent, from a floating population, the number of men who came under drill, from time to time, is considerably beyond that number. As compared with England, having a large and dense population and 160,000 volunteers, Canada, with a scattered population of 2,500,000, and embracing a much larger extent of country, has organized 25,000 volunteers. This fact, with the constant accumulation of experience in England, as well as in this country, tends to the conclusion that efficiency on the part of the volunteers, rather than numbers, ought to be sought after. Having this object in view, it has been aimed at to encourage the developement of the movement, sustaining it from time to time with aid granted by the Legislature, in the shape of money and clothing, and providing means adequate for the instruction and proper discipline of the force. The experience of the last twelve months points to a necessity for the establishment of a basis having a view to permanence, and as a stepping-stone as it were in that direction the qualification of both officers and men are to be tested, before the force is permitted to assume proportions, by the accession of new corps, beyond their capacity to maintain efficiency. Much credit is due to the volunteers now organized, for the steady persevering determination with which they have worked up to their present position of efficiency in drill and discipline.

OFFICERS OF VOLUNTEERS.

In order to carry into effect the provisions of the Volunteer Militia law, relating to the appointment and promotion of officers of volunteers, a General Order, of which the following is a copy, was made public in November last:—

No. 1.—In future no person shall be appointed or promoted to the rank of field officer of volunteers until he shall have satisfied the Board of Examiners, to be appointed by his Excellency the Commander in-Chief, under the provisions of Section 37 of the Volunteer Militia Act of last Session of Parliament, of his competence to command a battalion at battalion drill in the field, and shall have obtained from such Board of Examiners a certificate to that effect.

No. 2.—No person shall be appointed or promoted to the rank of captain, lieutenant, or ensign of volunteers, until he shall have satisfied the Board of Examiners that he is able to command a company at battalion drill, and to drill a company at company's drill, and shall have received from the Board of Examiners a certificate to that effect.

Under the conditions laid down in this order, a considerable number of applications have been received from candidates desiring to be examined, prior to their appointment or promotion in the Volunteer Force of the Province.

BOARDS OF MILITARY OFFICERS.

With a view to the obtaining of correct information regarding the qualifications and fitness to command of officers of volunteers, appointed prior to the passing of the new law, an opportunity has

been extended to all such officers to present themselves before a board of military officers in order that their proficiency in drill and discipline might be tested. The General Order promulgated on this head, in December last, was worded as follows:—

No. 1.—1. The Lieutenant-General Commanding Her Majesty's Forces in British North America, has, at the request of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, appointed a Board of Military Officers in each of the garrison towns of Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Hamilton, Toronto, and London, for the examination of such officers of the volunteer force throughout the Province as may desire to have their proficiency in drill and discipline tested and certified by such boards.

2. The certificates which the boards will be authorized to give will be of two classes:—

Class I. For such officers as shall have proved to the board their ability to handle a battalion at battalion drill.

Class II. For such officers as shall have proved to the board their ability to drill a company at company's drill and to command a company at battalion drill.

No. 3. The actual expenses of all officers who shall succeed in obtaining a certificate of either class, in proceeding from their homes to the place of examination and returning, will be paid.

4. Volunteer officers desirous of having their competency tested and certified by such boards, will send in their names, with as little delay as possible, to the office of the Adjutant-General, and will receive from that office a notification of the time and place of examination.

Promptly responding thereto, the names of some 70 officers of volunteers were furnished to this office, and on the 9th February, an assembling of the board was arranged for, in each of the cities named. Before these boards the several candidates presented themselves, and with two or three exceptions, passed creditable examinations, and obtained a certificate in accordance with the several qualifications.

INSPECTIONS.

Having reference to Section 25 of the Volunteer Militia Act, which provides for the inspection of the several corps of volunteers, and the clothing, arms, accoutrements, and armories by such officers of Her Majesty's service as may be appointed for that duty, the Commander-in-Chief was pleased to sanction in the month of December last, the appointment of the following officers:—

City of Montreal: Colonel Stephenson, Scots Fusilier Guards.
District of Montreal: Major Smyth, Royal Artillery.
„ Quebec: Colonel Ingell, C.B., 62nd Regiment.
„ Kingston: Lieutenant-Colonel Earle, Grenadier Guards.
„ Toronto: Lieutenant-Colonel Mountain, Royal Artillery.
„ London: Lieutenant-Colonel Grant, Royal Canadian Rifles.
„ Hamilton: Lieutenant-Colonel Hoste, C.B., Royal Artillery.

The different inspections were commenced in the several districts on the 13th January and are now nearly complete.

PRIZES.

Under Section 16 of the Volunteer Militia Act, provision being made for the appropriation of a sum of money to be competed for by corps of volunteers for proficiency in drill and discipline, the Commander-in-Chief was pleased to cause the following Order to be promulgated:—

With reference to the 16th Section of "An Act respecting the Volunteer Militia," His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is pleased to order the following regulations as those which will be adopted in the distribution of prizes or sums of money to be competed for by corps of volunteers for proficiency in drill and discipline, as contemplated by the first sub-section of the section above-mentioned.

1. Prizes or sums of money will be awarded for competition of the several companies of the volunteers, embracing each arm of the service, in each of the Inspection Districts mentioned in the Militia General Order of 31st December 1863, as follows:—

City of Montreal	$300
District of Montreal	300
„ Quebec	300
„ Kingston	300
„ Toronto	300
„ London	300
„ Hamilton	300

And the same will be apportioned in each of the above Inspection Divisions as follows:—

To the Company adjudged to be first	$100
„ „ second	80
„ „ third	70
„ „ fourth	50

2. The proficiency in drill and discipline will be decided upon the report of the officer of Her Majesty's service for each such Inspection Division, appointed by Militia General Order of 31st December, 1863, under the 25th Section of the Volunteer Militia Act, and will under that head embrace both the proficiency in drill of the company and the state and condition in which the clothing, arms, and accoutrements of the company are kept.

3. No prize or sum of money will be awarded unless at least ten companies existing in the same inspection division compete for the same, and no company will be considered as competing for any such prize or sum of money, unless at the inspection the same be of the strength of forty-three privates.

CANADA.

EFFICIENT BATTALIONS.

Section 16 of the Volunteer Militia Law provides for the payment to the commanding officer of each volunteer battalion which may be deemed efficient, a sum of money for the general uses and purposes of each battalion. Under the provisions of which section the following Order has been issued:—

With reference to the second sub-section of the 16th Section of the Volunteer Militia Law, his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is pleased to order and declare the following regulations, as defining what is requisite in the year 1864, to entitle a volunteer battalion to be deemed an "Efficient Volunteer Battalion."

1. Each company of the battalion shall have had at least 24 company drills of the duration of 1½ hours each, within the period of one year preceding the inspection of the battalion by an officer of Her Majesty's service, and the minimum strength at each such company drill shall have been forty men, and two company officers shall have been present at each such company drill.

2. Each battalion shall have had six drills in battalion of the duration of 1½ hours each, within the period of one year preceding the battalion inspection, and the minimum strength of each company, at each such battalion drill shall have been forty men, and at least two company officers shall have attended each such battalion drill with each company; and a regimental field officer shall have been in command at each such battalion drill.

3. The course of drill and instruction through which each arm of the service shall, so far as is possible, pass in such company or battalion drill, will be as follows:—

For Cavalry.

Cavalry sword exercise, and dismounted and mounted troop and squadron drill, as laid down in the Calvary regulations.

For Artillery.

Squad and company drill, including the manual and platoon exercises and gun drill; and to corps armed with the short rifle (in lieu of carbine), such musketry drill and target practice as may be hereafter laid down and prescribed by any Volunteer Militia General Order of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

For Infantry and Rifles.

Squad and Company drill, including the manual and platoon and bayonet exercises, and skirmishing as a company, and battalion drill and light infantry drill, as laid down in the *Field Exercises of Infantry*, and such musketry drill and target practice as may be hereafter laid down and prescribed by any Volunteer Militia General Order of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

4. The course of drill and instruction, required of each arm of the service by paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Order, will be certified according to forms which will be supplied from the office of the Adjutant General of Militia:—the forms as to the company drill being certified and signed by the captain or officer in command of the company, and those as to battalion drill being certified and signed by the officer commanding the battalion.

5. The degree of proficiency in drill and instructions and the state and condition of the clothing, arms, accoutrements, and equipment in the possession of the battalion, will be decided on the report of the officer of Her Majesty's service, from time to time, to be appointed under the 25th Section of the Volunteer Militia Act, and the proficiency in target practice will be decided upon a compliance with such regulations and forms of returns as may be hereafter established by General Order.

6. Any sum of money which his Excellency may order to be paid over to the commanding officer of a volunteer battalion, deemed efficient in the year 1864, will be so paid over after the annual inspection of officers of Her Majesty's service.

7. A careful compliance with the provisions of the preceding paragraphs is required, as furnishing proof or evidence of an "Efficient Volunteer Battalion" upon which his Excellency may decide as to the appropriation of any money, under the authority of the second sub-section of the 16th Section of the Volunteer Militia Law.

8. For the purposes of this General Order, a squadron of cavalry composed of two troops will be deemed a volunteer battalion, and a field battery of artillery will, in like manner, be deemed a battalion.

DRILL INSTRUCTORS.

Appended hereto will be found a list of the drill instructors which were employed during the year 1863 in drilling the several corps of volunteers and drill associations, composed of officers of the militia in the Province. (Appendix No. 1.)*

* The Appendices to this Report are not printed.

BLANK AMMUNITION.

In order to provide the necessary number of rounds of blank cartridges for distribution to the several corps of volunteers for use in 1864, an order has been given to the Hamilton Powder Company for the manufacture of 400,000 rounds, at the same cost to the Province as has been charged by the Imperial Government for the supply required in former years.

OFFICERS' OUTFITS.

In order to secure uniformity in the equipment of officers of the volunteer force, this department was authorized to procure a supply of outfits, for sale to officers of the militia, at cost.

Under this arrangement articles were ordered from England, costing -	£6,847	19	2
Add for transport, insurance, &c. - - - - - -	258	13	6
	£7,106	9	8

which amount was reduced to 5,906*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* by the loss of seven packages, value 1,290*l.*, insured and shipped at Liverpool, on board of the steam ship "Norwegian."

Upon the receipt of these outfits in Canada, the following regulations for their issue were adopted:—"A sum equal to ten per cent. upon the value of each outfit will be added to cover departmental expenses, cost of boxes, and inland transport. Officers desiring outfits are required to deposit in the Bank of Upper Canada, to the credit of the Receiver-General, the sum necessary to cover the value, and to transmit to the departments a certificate of the deposit, with their requisition for the articles, upon receipt whereof, the storekeeper will be directed to forward the outfits by express." Under these regulations, there was received from officers, up to the close of the year, deposit receipts to the value of $18,867.12 as payment for the different articles of outfit ordered by them.

CLOTHING.

During the year, 20,000 uniforms, complete, were procured and delivered into the Provincial stores at Quebec. Of these, the trousers were procured in this country, and the tunics, shakos, &c., were imported from England. The total cost of each suit of infantry uniform thus procured, including scarlet tunic, stitched shako and oil cover chevrons, brass button stick, and trousers, complete is $9.55, and for rifles, $9.67. The distribution to the newly organized corps of volunteers commenced on the 23rd May, and was continued until all these corps were supplied, as detailed in the statement annexed. (Appendix No. 2.)

CORPS UNIFORMED AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE.

One hundred and fourteen corps in this class have been paid $6 per man, as an allowance in lieu of clothing, for 1862 and 1863, amounting in all to the sum of $33,931.20. (Appendix No. 3).

REVIEWS,

have been numerous during the year, and the reports thereof communicated to the Department by the Brigade Majors concerned, have been of the most gratifying and satisfactory character. At these reviews, corps widely scattered over large areas of country, have been concentrated in some central or otherwise convenient locality, and as at Quebec, Brantford, and Toronto, have been brigaded with Her Majesty's troops, and placed under the command of distinguished officers of the regular army, who have spoken of the conduct and appearance of the volunteers whom they have thus commanded, in terms of approbation and praise. These reviews, to which may be justly allied the one at Picton as the forerunner of all the others, and other minor assemblages to be adverted to hereafter, are valuable as tests of the efficiency of the volunteers thus assembled, and as affording practical illustration of the results of the instruction imparted to them. The prospective advantages likely to accrue from corps thus coming in contact for the first time, and acting together in large bodies, can hardly be over estimated. Deficiencies were brought to light and made apparent. Excellence and efficiency could be noted and commented on, and a wholesome rivalry established of inestimable advantage to the *morale* and future well being of the force. The direct advantages of such assemblages are also great. Corps isolated and far apart, a large majority for the first time brought together, were enabled to act in unison, and to take part in the more complex manœuvres of the battalion and the brigade to which the company drills they had hitherto been restricted to were but fundamental and introductory. The zeal and spirit of both officers and men who participated therein is beyond all praise. The average distance travelled by the corps who took part in the Brantford and Toronto reviews, was fifty miles, and when it is borne in mind that this was done at their own cost, and at a great sacrifice of time cheerfully rendered it affords unmistakable proof, if such was needed, of the sterling loyalty and patriotism of the people.

Picton.

On the 20th July, the first review of the year, inaugurated and organized by Lieut.-Col. Shaw, Brigade Major of the 3rd Military District, took place here; Colonel Burrowes, R.A., Commandant of the Kingston Garrison, acting as reviewing officer, Lieut.-Col. Lowry, 47th Regiment, and other regular officers being also present. The volunteers assembled were two troops of cavalry from Kingston and Loughborough, the volunteer field battery, Kingston, 14th battalion volunteer rifles, six companies, Kingston, 15th battalion volunteer infantry, six companies, Belleville, 16th battalion volunteer infantry, six companies, Picton, four companies of volunteer infantry from Rednersville, Ameliasburg, and Napanee, two companies volunteer rifles from Storrington, the whole forming an aggregate strength of 1,293 men of all arms. These, under the respective commands of Lieutenant Colonels Shaw, Ponton, and Ross, M.P.P., were put through the various evolutions of a brigade field day. This lasted for three hours, under a continuous downfall of rain, which somewhat marred but did not interrupt the proceedings. At the close of the review Colonel Burrowes complimented the

CANADA.

force assembled for the creditable manner in which the various movements had been performed. The interest taken in the day's proceedings was great, some 6,000 or 7,000 persons from the surrounding country being present on the ground to witness them. The Picton people entertained the volunteers, and Messrs. Calvin and Breck, O. S. Gildersleeve, J. S. McQuaig, and Captain Smith conveyed them to and fro gratuitously in their steamboats. Some of the companies travelled distances of a hundred miles or upwards, to take part in the review.

Quebec.

On the 2nd September the volunteers at Quebec and Point Levi were brigaded on the Plains of Abraham, in conjunction with the first battalion 17th and 62nd regiments, Major General Lindsay the reviewing officer. The volunteers who mustered on this occasion were the two troops of cavalry, 53, garrison battery volunteer artillery, 25, 7th battalion volunteer rifles, 104, 8th battalion volunteer rifles, including civil service rifle company, 212, 9th battalion volunteer rifles, 101, the volunteer engineer company and 17th battalion volunteer infantry, Point Levi, about 150, total 710 of all arms. The volunteer brigade under the command of Colonel Sewell, consisting of the 8th battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Reeve, 7th and 9th battalions consolidated into one, Major Panet, and the 17th battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Blanchet, M.P.P., took part with the regular troops in all the various evolutions of a brigade field day.

Brantford.

On the following day, 3rd September, occurred the review here. The volunteers under the command of Major Bowles, 63rd regiment, being brigaded with the Armstrong field battery, R.A., Lieutenant Smith, and P.C.O. Rifle Brigade, Lieutenant-Colonel Lord A. Russell, brought up from Hamilton for the occasion, Major-General Napier, C.B., reviewing officer. The volunteer corps that took part in this review were the troops of volunteer cavalry from London, St. Thomas and Burford, the volunteer field battery, Hamilton, the volunteer garrison battery, Goderich, the infantry companies from London, St. John's, Windsor, Drumbo, Seaforth, Clifton, Ingersoll, Thamesford, Chatham, Mount Pleasant, Hamilton, 13th battalion, six companies; Georgetown, Dundas, Beamsville, Harrietsville, Stratford, Wardsville, and the rifle companies from London, Komoka, St. Thomas, Delaware, Woodstock, Beachville, Brantford, Paris, York, Caledonia, Galt, Dundas, Waterford, Elora, Oakville, Guelph, Cayuga, Stratford, and Goderich, making a total of 50 corps, 98 officers, and 2,019 men of all arms. These were formed into three battalions, placed under the respective commands of Captain Lord Edward Clinton, P.C.O. Rifle Brigade, and Brigade Majors Light and Villiers, and then manœuvred in brigade with the regular troops. At its conclusion the Major-General commanding thanked the volunteers for "the creditable display they had made, and stated that he would have much pleasure in communicating to his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the satisfactory and pleasing character of the day's proceedings." The local papers stated that 15,000 spectators witnessed the display, a concourse that was largely contributed to by the wise liberality of the different railway authorities, who conveyed volunteers and others to and fro, at greatly reduced rates. The Brantford people had also made liberal arrangements to dine the volunteers who had assembled, covers for 2,500 persons having been prepared in the exhibition building. All the corps who met at Brantford, excepting the two companies at that place, had to travel distances varying from a maximum of 164 miles (the company from Windsor), to a minimum distance of five (the company from Mount Pleasant), or an average distance of 50 miles per company. The strongest companies on the ground were the 1st infantry company, Chatham, Captain Smith, three officers and 52 men, the infantry company, Dundas, Captain Crossland, three officers and 50 men, and the rifle company, Woodstock, Captain Richardson, three officers and 50 men. The Goderich Battery Volunteer Artillery, which had travelled 84 miles to the review, was much commended for its soldierly appearance, and steadiness under arms.

Toronto.

On the 8th October the review here took place. At this a greater number of corps and larger aggregate strength of officers and men came together than had yet assembled during the year. The corps thus congregated were the troops of cavalry from Coburg, York, Markham, and St. Catherine's; the Volunteer Field Battery, Toronto; the Garrison Batteries Volunteer Artillery from St. Catherine's and Goderich; the Naval Company, Toronto. *Infantry.*—Toronto 10th battalion, eight companies, Belleville, Ashburnham, Peterborough, Cobourg, Campbellford, Millbrook, Port Hope, King, Albion, Lloydtown, Aurora, Barrie, Brampton, Alton, Bradford, Oshawa, Whitby, Uxbridge, Prince Albert, Owen Sound, Morriston, Orangeville, Georgetown, Stewartstown, Norval, Dundas, Thorold, Louth Beamsville, Grimsby, and Ingersoll. *Rifles.*—Toronto 2nd battalion, 10 companies, Peterborough, Lindsay, Bowmanville, Port Hope, Cobourg, Barrie, Cookstown, Brampton, Collingwood, Oshawa, Whitby, Brooklin, Elora, Scarborough, Columbus, Southampton, Dundas, Oakville, North Oxford, and Brampton, making a total of 81 companies, 211 officers, and 2,888 men of all arms, with 132 horses. The cavalry being placed under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Boulton, the infantry were formed into two brigades under the respective commands of Lieut.-Colonel Peacocke, 16th Regiment, and Colonel Denison, Commandant Volunteers, Toronto, and were manœuvred in conjunction with the regular garrison, the whole under the command of Major-General Lindsay. After the usual evolutions of a brigade field day, which were executed in the presence of an immense concourse of spectators, the officers commanding corps were called to the front by the reviewing general, who expressed to them his pleasure at what he had witnessed, complimenting those corps which had drilled in battalion and made the most of the opportunity,

while he made the proper allowances for such as had not had that advantage. Many of the country companies received great praise for their soldierly bearing and appearance, more particularly the Volunteer Garrison battery from Goderich, which, as at Brantford, was much noted, and made the subject of a special and complimentary report from Brigade-Major Denison. The companies strongest on the ground were the 2nd Infantry company, Cobourg, Captain Elliott, three officers and 54 men, and the Oshawa Infantry company, Major Fairbanks, three officers and 53 men. The average distance travelled per company was 50 miles, the maximum 175 miles by the Rifle company from Southampton, the minimum distance 5 miles by the 2nd troop York cavalry. Arrangements had been made by the committee of management with the different railway companies for the transport of volunteers at reduced rates, and the expenses attending the review including the entertainment of the different corps were provided for by a liberal subscription of $1,805·58 from the citizens of Toronto.

In addition to the foregoing, which from the numbers brought together, the distances travelled, the extensive organization required, and the amalgamation of the volunteers with Her Majesty's regular forces under the command of officers of distinction, must be considered as the most important assemblages of the force for general purposes, many on a minor scale for battalion drill have taken place during the past year under the auspices of the brigade majors of the respective districts and reflect great credit on all concerned for the zeal shown and the efforts made to obtain that knowledge in drill and discipline from which they were otherwise debarred by their isolated position as independent companies.

In the 6th Military District, Lower Canada, Brigade-Major Fletcher organized meetings for battalion purposes at Waterloo on the 15th August, where 6 companies assembled, having an aggregate strength of 20 officers and 235 men, at Hemmingford 22nd September, Huntingdon 24th September, and at St. John's 26th September, at which places assembled an aggregate force of 22 companies and 791 officers and men. These were formed into battalions and drilled as such in a most satisfactory manner.

In the 5th Military District, Upper Canada, Brigade-Major Dennis had battalion parades at Barrie on the 29th September, and at Aurora and Whitby on the 2nd and 3rd October, at which 12 different companies met and were drilled in battalion. Aggregate strength not reported.

In the 6th Military District, Upper Canada, Brigade-Major Barretto had battalion parades at Goderich 21st September, Guelph 24th September, and at Owen Sound on the 28th September. At these were assembled an aggregate of 21 companies and 703 officers and men. The proceedings as reported were most satisfactory.

In the 8th Military District, Upper Canada, Brigade-Major Light had a battalion parade at Woodstock on the 3rd December, at which 6 companies met. Aggregate strength not given.

In the 9th Military District, Upper Canada, Brigade-Major Moffat organized a meeting for battalion purposes at Amherstberg on the 30th of September. In this 10 companies took part, having an aggregate strength of 402 officers and men, all the companies excepting the one at Amherstberg having distances ranging from 20 to 80 miles to travel for the purpose. The inhabitants of Amherstberg provided for the sustenance of the Volunteers who assembled there, in the most liberal manner.

It is also known that many other similar meetings have taken place at other points where companies adjoining each other have come together for the purpose of acquiring a knowledge of battalion movements. As these however have not been officially reported to the department they cannot be more particularly adverted to in this report of the year's proceedings, although the zeal that prompted these efforts on the part of both officers and men deserves commendation and encouragement.

TARGET PRACTICE

may be considered as the most important branch of the instruction of the volunteer, and to it that attention has been directed which its importance merited. In 1861, iron targets with all the necessary appurtenances, were imported from England at a cost of $1,600, and complete sets of these were distributed to the several principal stations at Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, and London. The reports of the past year's practice, although not as general as could have been desired, so as to enable the department to arrive at the figure of merit of each corps in a manner similar to that practised in the British army, are on the whole satisfactory and show progress of a very marked and gratifying character. The development in this branch, which has been considerable, may be justly attributed to the increased and systematic course of instruction imparted by the professional drill instructors distributed so extensively throughout the country, and to the more constant supervision exercised by the different brigade-majors in their respective districts. Owing to representations from the latter made in the early part of the year that in many instances the liberal allowance of sixty rounds per man per annum was altogether used by some few men in certain companies, who, by constant practice monopolized exclusively to their own use what was intended for the benefit of all, measures were immediately taken to remedy the abuse complained of, by the distribution to each corps of blank forms for target practice (Appendix No. 4.), so that in addition to the establishment of a check on the improper or wasteful use of the ammunition, some judgment of the merits of the respective corps in their practice might also be arrived at. The system thus inaugurated has already produced marked results, and the department is now enabled from the data supplied by those corps who have been particular in forwarding their returns to afford some definite information on the subject. The following analysis of those received from either section of the province, now for the first time made public, have a practical significance as being the fruits of the large outlay authorized under this head.

CANADA.

From Lower Canada 143 returns have been received—from corps at Nicolet, St. Joseph, St. Ours, St. Hyacinthe, Roxham, Rockburn, Franklin, Athelson, Huntingdon, Hemmingford, Beauharnois, Hinchinbrooke, Quebec, Terrebonne, St. Vincent de Paul, Lachute, St. Andrews, Como, St. Eustace, Aylmer, Buckingham, Sherbrooke, Danville, Waterloo, Granby, and Philipsburg.

The maximum attendance at target practice at any one time was furnished by the infantry company at Rockburn, Captain Blackwood. This company on the 27th August paraded for this purpose 50 men, who with seven rounds per man, at distances of 300 and 400 yards, made an average number of points of 2·34, the highest score, 7 points, having been made by Private M. Mitchell, and by the infantry company at Franklin, Captain Rogers, who on the 15th July paraded 47 men. Those with 10 rounds per man, at distances of 100 and 200 yards. made the large average score of $8\frac{8}{47}$. The highest score, 18 points, was made by Private Wm. Adams.

The minimum attendance is furnished by the 1st Rifle company, Sherbrooke, Major Ibbotson, who paraded only two men on the 29th September. These, with 10 rounds each, at distances of 200 and 400 yards, made an average score of 12 points—Sergeant Ansell making the highest score of 13; and the Infantry company at Buckingham, Captain McNaughton, who paraded six men on the 20th September. These, with 5 rounds each, at a distance of 500 yards, made an average of five points—Sergeant Davis making the highest score of 12.

The best practice appears to have been made by the Infantry company at Aylmer, Captain Campbell, who, on the 21st August, with 21 men, 10 rounds per man, and at distances of 400 and 500 yards, made the very large average of $14\frac{1}{2}$ points, Corporal L. Morehead and Private Thibault making each the large score of 23; and the Infantry company at Terrebonne, No. 5, of the 12th Battalion Volunteer Rifles, Captain Anger, who, on the 13th September, also with 21 men, at distances of 150 and 200 yards, with 10 rounds per man, made an average score of nine $\frac{17}{20}$ points—Ensign Chauvin making the highest score of 19.

From Upper Canada, 402 target practice returns have been received from corps at:

Bell's Corners, Vankleek Hill, Hawkesbury Mills, Ottawa, Almonte, Carleton Place, Pakenham, L'Original, Fitzroy, Perth, Hawkesbury, East Gananoque, Brockville, Burritt's Rapids, Cobourg, Lindsay, Campbellford, Peterborough, Ashburnham, Lakefield, Whitby, Brampton, King, Aurora, Alton, Barrie, Goderich, Paisley, Mount Forest, Orangeville, Durham, Kincardine, New Hamburgh, Morriston, Stratford, York, Niagara, Cayuga, Dundas, Grimsby, Stewart's Town, Oakville, Georgetown, St. Anns, Beamsville, Caledonia, Hamilton, Ingersoll, North Oxford, Embro, Delaware, Drumbo, Simcoe, Beachville, St. John's, London, Woodstock, Harriettsville, Komoka, Blantford, North Ridge, Chatham, Amherstburgh, Windsor, Leamington, and Toronto.

The maximum attendance in this section of the Province at any one time was that of No. 5 Company, 20th Battalion Infantry, Grimsby, Captain Nelles. This company, on the 28th September, mustered for practice 49 men, who, with 10 rounds each, at distances of 200 and 400 yards, made an average score of $5\frac{1}{2}$ points—Corporal S. Smith and Private W. Barnes making the highest score each of 13; and No. 8 Company, 19th Battalion Infantry, Beamsville, Captain Kerr; this company, mustering on the 1st August, 48 men, who, with 10 rounds each, at distances of 150 and 200 yards, made an average score of five—Private Eli Esmond making the highest of 15.

The minimum attendance is shown to have been that of the Infantry company at Amherstburg, Captain Wilkinson, of which two men paraded on the 3rd November, and with five rounds each, at a distance of 150 yards, made an average score of four points—Private C. G. Forster making the highest, six; and the 1st Rifle Company, Ottaway, Lieut-Colonel Grant, this Company parading four men on the 1st September, who, with five rounds each, at a distance of 600 yards, made an average of five points—Private Christie making the highest, six.

The best practice was made by the Volunteer Garrison Battery, Goderich, Captain Ross, who, with 10 men each, on the 21st October, with 15 rounds per man, at distances of 150, 200 and 300 yards, made an average score of $15\frac{7}{10}$ points—Captain Ross himself making the high score of 22; and by 10 men of No. 4 Company, 20th Battalion Infantry, Grimsby, Captain Randall, who, with 10 rounds per man, at distances of 300 and 400 yards, made an average of eight $\frac{2}{3}$ points—Corporal House making the highest, 14.

The longest range in either section of the Province did not exceed 600 yards. As an instance of the deep root that target practice has now taken in the country, it is worthy of note, that in addition to the regulated Government allowance expended as above, extra ball ammunition has been purchased by various corps last year to the amount of $2,863·49. With a view to regulate and control the future issue of ammunition in a more satisfactory manner, it is intended that the annual allowance hitherto issued under the supervision of the late Inspecting Field Officers, shall hereafter be made direct from head-quarters. No new issues will in any case be approved of, until the expenditure of that of the previous season has been satisfactorily accounted for, and the balance on hand if any, shown. With this end in view, has been prepared the form of return, Appendix (No. 5.)

As the natural sequence to the distribution to the volunteers of so valuable a weapon as the Enfield rifle, and the supply of ammunition for its use, has been the desire to test the measure of skill and efficiency acquired, and hence have resulted the—

RIFLE MATCHES

which have sprung up so numerously and so spontaneously throughout the country during the past year attaining so far their largest development. Not only have the large centres of wealth and population evinced a most laudable spirit in this respect, but the smaller towns and villages have likewise vied with them, to the extent of their means, to enable adjoining companies of volunteers to meet and test their skill in friendly rivalry.

CANADA.

First in order, from the large amount that was subscribed, the many competitors that assembled from all parts of the province, and the great interest centered thereon, was the great match in Montreal, which, commencing on the 16th September, did not terminate until the 26th of the same month. The success of this great affair was most complete. (*Vide* foot note for Official Report.*) Competitors, regulars, volunteers, militia, and civilians in great numbers flocked to it from all parts of the province.

The subscriptions by the corporations, citizens, of Montreal, and others, amounted to	$2,943.21
Entrance fees	937·50
Total	$3,880·71

The value of the prizes in cash, plate and medals, amounted to $2,211·88, and the expenses attending the match reached the sum of $1,950 00.

The competitors who entered the lists for the different prizes numbered 1,257, these, expending 10,884 rounds of ammunition, made 17,639 hits and points, giving a mean average of 14·03. The ranges were from 200 to 800 yards. With regard to individual excellence particular mention is made of "the names of Lord Alexander Russell, P. C. O., Rifle Brigade; Lieut. McNabb, Volunteer Garrison Artillery, Ottawa; Lieut Edwards, 10th Battalion Infantry, or 'Royals,' Toronto; Ensign Esdaile, Royal Light Infantry, Montreal, and Ensign Towner, of the Grenville Militia, all of whom may be noted as being amongst the best marksmen on the ground"—Lieut. Edwards carrying off the proudest trophy of the match, the Metropolitan cup, and Lieut. McNabb making five consecutive bull's eyes at 400 yards distance. The assistance afforded by the military authorities was of the greatest value, and their kindness in furnishing daily guards to keep the grounds, supplying markers, and other accessories towards ensuring success, was of the most marked character, and entitles them to the thanks and gratitude of the volunteers generally.

A novel feature in this match was the prizes that were offered for artillery practice, and which although liberally thrown open to the competition of all the volunteer batteries in the country, were contested for by that of Montreal alone. It is to be regretted that this occasion was not taken advantage of for testing the comparative merits of the different corps of this branch of the service, in this respect.

The presentation of the prizes to the winners was made public on the 5th October, at the Crystal Palace, under the Patronage of Lieut.-General Sir F. Williams, K.C.B., the Commander of the forces in British North America, and was an occasion of great display, their lordships the Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishops, his worship the Mayor, and other persons of distinction, with a large concourse of citizens, assisting at the ceremony, and affording gratification to the recipients, by their presence and their acts.

Toronto.

On the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of July, the rifle match of the 10th M. D. Rifle Association took place in that city. The expenses incurred and met by subscription in the usual way, amounted to $649.41. The value of the prizes distributed was $485.40. The number of competitors was 109. The mean average of the match, from the want of sufficient data in the report, could not be arrived at. The maximum average of 23½ was made at the 200 and 300 yards range, five rounds at each. The minimum was 11½ at that of 300 and 500 yards, five rounds at each. The ranges were from 200 to 700 yards. The individual shooting of Lieut. Shepherd, Sergeant Bennett, and Privates Thom and Morrison, were particularly noteworthy—the two first making each 28 hits and points at the 200 and 300 yards range, five rounds at each; the two last-named making 29 and 28 hits and points respectively, at 200 and 400 yards, five rounds at each range.

Brigade-Major Denison, in closing his report on this match, states, that in addition to it "there have been many other matches in this district between the various corps, and one between the Civil Service Company of Quebec and the Toronto University Company, which resulted in favour of the latter.

"I cannot conclude this report without referring to the pleasing fact that the men of this district have been most successful in carrying off their share of prizes competed for in Hamilton, Kingston, and especially Montreal, where they won at least two-thirds of all the prizes open to them, including

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Military District, No. 11, L. C.,
Brigade Major's Office, Montreal,
29th Sept. 1863.

* SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that the Rifle Tournament held in this district terminated on Saturday the 26th instant, having occupied ten days, and I am happy to be able to state, without the slightest accident taking place during its progress, the greatest possible caution having been exercised to prevent the possibility of such an occurrence. Every facility was afforded by the military authorities by furnishing guards each day to keep the ground, and in addition to this a field officer, a captain, and ten subalterns, were detailed daily from the volunteer force, the utmost order and regularity was therefore observed throughout this great rifle meeting. The riflemen from all parts of the country have expressed their entire satisfaction with the arrangements here, and the opportunity thus afforded in bringing together marksmen from both sections of the Province, thereby exciting a friendly rivalry, and which cannot fail in being productive of great benefit to the volunteer movement and popularize the use of the most formidable weapon of defence, and also stimulate improvement in rifle practice among all classes of the volunteer force.

The Rifle Tournament was opened under the auspices of His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir Fenwick Williams, K.C.B., Commander of the Forces, who, in the absence of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, fired the first shot on the occasion. The distribution of the prizes to the successful competitors will take place on Monday, the 5th proximo, at the Crystal Palace, after which I shall have the honour of forwarding a report of the whole proceedings with Returns, &c , &c.

I remain, Sir, &c.,
JOHN MACPHERSON, Brigade Major.

Lieut.-Col. the Hon. A. de Salaberry,
D. A. G. Militia, L. C., Quebec.

CANADA.

the Montreal merchants' challenge vase, value $200, open to six men from each section of the province; the volunteer battalion prize, value $100, open to three men from each battalion of the province, was also brought to Toronto."

At Toronto also, on the 16th and 17th September, took place the rifle match of the 5th M. D. Rifle Association, at which 10 prizes were offered for competition, of the value of $324.25. The competitors numbered 477, who expended 2,970 rounds, making a mean average of 1.05 points per shot. The ranges were from 200 to 700 yards. The best shooting appears to have been made at the 500 and 700 ranges, at which 24 men, expending 240 rounds of ammunition, made an average of 7⅔ points, hits not included. The best individual shooting was made by Capt. J. Wright, 5th battalion, Ontario, and Ensign J. Ross—the former making 12 points at 400 yards, with five rounds, and the latter, 14 with 10 rounds, at 400 and 700 yards. In company shooting, the Oshawa Infantry company, Major Fairbanks, represented by two members, excelled—they making 19 points with five rounds each, at 200 yards. Brigade-Major Dennis states, in closing his report, that "the meeting was in every way a gratifying and successful one; although four of the prizes were open to the province, the district competitors carried off the whole ten."

Brockville.

The match at this place commenced on the 14th and lasted until the 21st July. The prizes competed for were 12, of the value of $742. The amount of the subscriptions and entrance fees has not been given. The competitors were 943, who expending 5,1[illegible] rounds of ammunition, made a total of 7,846 hits and points, giving a mean average of 8.32. The ranges were from 200 to 350 yards. The highest average in the shortest range was 10.68 in the 10th match, and 9.33 in the longest ranges in the 11th match. Individual excellence in shooting has not been noted.

Ottawa.

The 1st M. D. Rifle Association commenced their annual match on 1st September, and continued it for several days. The matches were 12 in number—the value of the prizes in medals and money was $796·000; the amount of entrance fees not stated. The competitors numbered 769, who expended 4,255 rounds of ammunition; but as the general score has not been furnished, the mean average of the match cannot be arrived at. In the third match at 400 yards, five rounds, 17 hits and points were made, each by Capt. Giles, Toronto; Lieut. Holden, Merrickville; Quarter-Master Morrison, Naval Company, Toronto; and Private Booth, Ottawa Engineer Company. In the ninth match for the ladies' prize of $135, open for competition to the volunteer companies of Ottawa only, 10 men from each, No. 1 Rifle Company, took it with a score of 104; distances, 400 and 700 yards, three rounds at each. In the 11th match at 300, 500, and 800 yards, three rounds at each, the first prize was taken by Gunner Matthews, Ottawa Field Battery, with a score of 24.

A prize of $20, presented by T. Mackay, Esq., of Rideau Hall, was awarded to Quarter-Master Morrison of the Toronto Naval Company, for having made the highest aggregate score during the match.

Quebec.

The rifle match here took place at the Island of Orleans on the 6th September, and was continued for six days, the military authorities having kindly given up, at some inconvenience to themselves, their ranges, targets, markers, &c., for the use of the committee. The match was entirely successful, although the competitors were limited almost exclusively to the district and city of Quebec, those at a distance, no doubt, holding themselves back for the approaching great match at Montreal.

The subscriptions from the members of the Legislature, then in session, the merchants, citizens, and volunteers of Quebec, amounted to -	$1,066.45
Entrance fees - - - - - - - -	264.00
	$1,330.45

The value of the prizes in plate, medals, and money, amounted to $763. The competitors numbered 955, who, expending 5,128 rounds of ammunition, made 6,603 hits and points, giving a mean average of 6.91. The ranges were from 150 to 800 yards.

The shooting of the volunteers compared very favourably with that of the regulars, of whom a large number competed, and against these they honourably held their ground, carrying off a fair portion of their prizes. The individual shooting of privates A. L. Russell, Civil Servce Rifle Company, G. B. Parkin, and A. Shrapnell, 1st Company, 8th Battalion, or "Victoria's," of James Day, 2nd Company, 8th Battalion Rifles, Sergeant J. Ferguson, No. 3 Battery, Volunteer Garrison Artillery, and of Messrs. R. Cassels, Rifle Club, and G. Lampson, Drill Association, is worthy of particular mention. Colour-Sergeant Johnstone, of the 62nd Regiment, had the honour of carrying off the gold medal of the committee, or "champion prize, closely pushed by Mr. R. Cassels, who lost it by one point only.

The distribution of the prizes was made publicly in the Riding School, which was handsomely prepared by the committee, to give it due *éclat*, the Minister of Militia, the Commandant of the garrison, and other persons of note and distinction, with a numerous concourse of citizens being present to do honour to the winners and stimulate them to further excellence.

Hamilton.

The rifle match of the 7th M. D. Rifle Association commenced at Grimsby on the 13th of October, and was continued for four days. Here, as at Montreal and Quebec, the Association make grateful acknowledgments for the services rendered by the military authorities, through Lord A. Russell, P. C. O. Rifle Brigade, the commandant at Hamilton. "Every assistance asked for was cheerfully rendered." The subscriptions and entrance fees amounted to $1,417.65; the disbursements were $1,395.38. The money prizes distributed to 12 winners, amounted to $677, exclusive of the value of the pools. The value of the plate given in prizes was $650; that of the medals, one of gold and one of silver, is not given. The number of entries was 524, but as the neat little pamphlet published by the Council, under the signature of its president, Lieutenant-Colonel Booker, does not give the number of competitors, the amount of ammunition expended, nor the total of the hits and points made, the mean average of the match cannot be arrived at. The Volunteer Challenge Cup was carried off by the Oakville Volunteer Rifle Company, Lieutenant-Colonel Chisholm. The Hamilton Merchants' Prize was won by Sergeant J. Wilson, No. 1 Company, 20th Battalion, St. Catherine's, and the President's Gold Medal or "Champion Prize," was won by Private John Roe, No. 4 Company, 13th Battalion, Hamilton. The presentation of the prizes was made publicly, in the hall of the Mechanics' Institute, Hamilton, on the 13th November, "in the presence of nearly 1,000 spectators, admitted to the hall by invitation tickets."

Franklin Company, of Huntington, Lower Canada.

On the 28th and 29th October a match took place here, at which were assembled 229 competitors, from 12 different companies in the 6th M. D. The subscriptions amounted to $190; the value of the prizes was $130. The mean average of this match could not be arrived at from want of the proper data. The individual firing of Lieutenant Johnston, who made 27 points; of Corporal Gorham and Private Waddell, each 26 points; of Captain Lucas and Sergeant Brown, each 25 points: and Private Gervis, 23 points, at the 200 and 400 yards ranges, five rounds at each, is particularly noted. A pleasing incident of this match was the hospitality shown by the farmers of this vicinity, who, as reported by Brigade-Major Fletcher, "came forward in a very liberal manner and offered to billet all those who came from a distance, in the event of the match lasting more than one day. 150 were thus billeted."

Sherbrooke, Lower Canada.

The rifle match of the 10th Military District Rifle Association, was held here on the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 12th October. The amount subscribed, including entrance fees, was $648.03. The value of the prizes amounted to $415.50; the expenses incurred were 255.55. The matches were nine at which there were 390 competitors, who, expending 1,970 rounds of ammunition, made 2,799 hits and points giving a mean average of 7.10. Brigade Major King, in his report praises Captain Hanning, Danville Rifle Company, and Captain Reynolds, Waterloo Infantry Company, "for their perseverance in carrying out my directions relative to their target practice, the result of which showed favourably at the rifle match, by their carrying off the whole of the first class prizes excepting one, as well as several of the others."

A rifle match on a large scale, and lasting over several days, has also taken place at Kingston, in September; but no official report of this has been received to enable the Department to give a synopsis for comparison and general information.

COMPANY MATCHES

have taken place at Lyn, in the county of Leeds, on the 20th August. Four matches at distances of from 200 to 500 yards; value of the prizes, $136; competitors 119, who, expending 707 rounds of ammunition, made a score of 594, or a mean average of hits and points of 4.99.

At Merrickville, county of Grenville, on the 25th and 26th August—five matches, at distances of from 200 to 500 yards; value of the prizes $146; competitors 488, who, expending 2,333 rounds of ammunition, made a score of 1.910, or a mean average of 3.91.

On the 26th September the Volunteer Rifle Company, at Packenham, county of Lanark, had a match at which three prizes of the aggregate value of $45, given by the officers of the company, were competed for. 30 entries, at six distances from 160 up to 600 yards, 26 rounds per man. The first prize was won by Corporal Burleigh, with a score of 40.

At Grimsby, county of Lincoln, 27th September, between four companies of the 20th battalion Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel McGiverin, M.P.P., viz.: No. 1 Company, St. Catherine's, Captain McDonald; No. 3 Company, Thorold, Captain Baxter; No. 4 Company, Grimsby, Captain Randall; and No. 6 Company, Port Dalhousie, Captain Clarke, which resulted as follows: Private Sibley, No. 1 Company, the first prize, $36, with 28 points; A. Randal, No. 4 Company, the second prize, $30, with 26 points; S. Bradley, No. 3 Company, the third prize, $35, with 25 points; and G. Clarke, No. 6 Company, the fourth prize, $20, with 25 points. Ranges 200 and 400 yards, five rounds at each. Average, 25¾.

At Morrisburg, county of Dundas, on the 2nd and 3rd October—five matches, at distances of from 200 to 600 yards; value of the prizes, $98; competitors, 120, who, expending 1,102 rounds of ammunition, made a score of 2,022, or a mean average of 16.85.

At Brockville in the county of Leeds, on the 14th October—two matches, at 200 and 400 yards distance; value of the prizes, $26; competitors 34, who, expending 340 rounds of ammunition, made a score of 574, or a mean average of 16.88.

CANADA.

At Farmersville, county of Leeds, on the 22nd October—five matches, at distances of from 200 to 600 yards; value of the prizes, $164; competitors 170, who, expending 864 rounds of ammunition, made a score of 703, or a mean average of 4.13.

At Cayuga, on the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th of November between the four companies of the county of Haldimand, from Caledonia, York, Dunville, and Cayuga. The matches were ten in number; value of the prizes, $100; the competitors 215, who expended 1,535 rounds of ammunition; but as no general score of the match has been furnished, the mean average could not be arrived at. The most interesting match appears to have been that in which the different companies, represented each by three members, contended for the mastery. This was obtained by the York Rifle Company, Captain Davis, making a score of 104 at ranges of 200, 300, and 400 yards, five rounds at each; second the Caledonia Rifle Company, Captain Jackson, 100; third, the Cayuga Rifle Company, Captain Stuart, 98; fourth, the Dunville Rifle Company, Major Amsden, 52. Corporal Baird and Captain Stuart both distinguished themselves as marksmen, the former making 28 points at 200 and 400 yards, the latter 26 at 200 and 350 yards, five rounds at each of the ranges.

At Gananoque, county of Leeds, on the 18th and 19th November—nine matches, at distances of from 290 to 500 yards; value of the prizes, $238; competitors 244, who expended 1,247 rounds of ammunition. General score not furnished; no mean average could be arrived at.

No. 1 Rifle Company, Ottawa, Lieutenant-Colonel Grant, have had several matches. The first on the 24th January, for two prizes of $4 and $2 respectively, 24 enteries, Sergeant Barry winning the first prize with a score of 35; distances 300, 400, and 500 yards, five rounds at each. The 2nd May 25th, at which four prizes of the aggregate value of $50, presented by the captain of the company, were competed for at distances of 200, 400, and 500 yards, three rounds at each, 39 entries, 1st prize won by Sergeant McCullogh with a score of 14 points. The third in October, a match for three prizes of the value of $45, distances 300, 400, and 600 yards, five rounds at each, 25 entries, 1st prize won by Private Maclaren. 4th in November, for a rifle, value $20, distance 500 and 600 yards, five rounds at each, 28 entries, won by Sergeant Barry with a score of 20; and the 5th in December, for a silver watch, value $36, distance 400 yards, 10 rounds, 30 entries, won by Sergeant Barry with a score of 27.

The two Infantry companies at Bell's Corners and Fitzroy competed together (date not supplied) for two prizes of the value of $20 each, given respectively by J. Skead, M.L.C., and W. F. Powell, M.P.P. These were both won by the Infantry company, Bell's Corners, Captain W. F. Powell, M.P.P. Particulars of the match have not been furnished.

The two Infantry companies at Perth have also had matches, dates not given, in which six prizes were competed for, of the aggregate value of $100, presented for competition by the officers of the companies. Particulars of these matches have not been furnished.

The proceedings of the year may be summed up with a closing match that took place at the Crescent Cove, Quebec, on the 10th December, between twenty sergeants of the 1st battalion, 17th regiment of the line, and 20 members of No. 1 company, 8th battalion, volunteer rifles, or "Victoria's" Captain Alleyn, and which deserves particular notice, from the circumstances attending it. It was a fair trial of skill between regulars and volunteers, and one in which, when they were brought fairly face to face in competition, the latter succeeded in carrying off the victory. The stakes at issue were the honour accruing to the winners, and the payment of the costs of the match to those who lost. The ranges were 200 and 450 yards, five rounds at each. The sergeants of the 17th regiment made a total of hits and points, at both ranges, of 315; the "Victoria's," 331, thus beating their opponents by 16. At the short range the latter were much behind, having made only 171, to 187 scored by the sergeants, but pulled up wonderfully at the long range, scoring 160 against 128. The shooting of Private Magee of the "Victoria's" was excellent at the 450 yards, he having made thereat three bull's eyes and two centres, or a total of 18 hits and points with five rounds.

This match terminating so honourably for the "Victoria's," and for the volunteers generally, whose representatives they may be considered, is all the more noteworthy, from the fact that the men whom they have thus triumphed over were no unworthy competitors, belonging as they do to a corps standing fifth in the order of merit for rifle shooting in the British army, as shown by General Hay's last published annual report for 1862–1863.

The foregoing synopsis of the rifle shooting of the province for the past year corroborates most forcibly the statement lately put forth by the National Rifle Association, in its last annual report, "that rifle shooting had become nationalized in Great Britain, and had likewise taken deep root in her dependencies." District rifle associations have sprung up in almost every military district in Canada, and are now in full working order. It is to be regretted that no provincial association has as yet been organized, to which these could be properly affiliated, so as to ensure unity of action, and become imbued with a homogeneous spirit; having a provincial council that without interfering with, would guide and direct, and be resorted to as an ultimate court of appeal on disputed points, and all other matters connected with a pastime so manly and useful. To quote the words of a leading provincial journal, in an excellent article on the Montreal match:—

"No one, certainly, will be sorry, while the world remains as it is, that Canadians should know how to handle their weapons, if occasion should call for their use. It would perhaps be going too far to say that the safety of the country depends upon rifle shooting, but we may assert, without much danger of contradiction, that if every man in Canada, between the ages of 18 and 45 could put a bullet through a target at 600 yards, a long step would be taken towards safety. The whole *art militaire* is not summed up in this one accomplishment, but it is conceded that from a population accustomed to the use of arms, an army can be created with speed and certainty. Rifle shooting is not merely an accomplishment of importance in time of war; it is a manly and invigorating sport,

capable of being pursued at no great expense. It affords what almost all men need, and particularly those who live in cities, a pleasant stimulus to exertion in the open air. There is just enough of employment of the intellect, to interest without wearying. It is one, too, in which almost everybody can engage. Even very short sighted men shoot with the rifle, though not, perhaps, with the success of their more acute eyed bretheren. The eye, the hand, the arm, the body, and the legs receive wholesome exercise in the work at the butts, and there is constant need for two or three rather valuable mental qualities, which suffice to keep the brain in motion. The state of the wind has to be watched very closely. If you want to hit the bull's eye, it may be necessary to aim at the outer edge of the target, or even beyond it altogether. Speaking phrenologically, the bumps of comparison, size, and weight, are never idle in "shooting at the butts."

All of which is respectively submitted for your Excellency's consideration.

A. DE SALABERRY, Lt-Col.
Dept. Adjt. Genl. Mil., L. C.
WALKER POWELL, Lt.-Col.
Dept. Adjt. Genl. Mil., U. C.

Adjutant General's Office,
Quebec, 20th February 1864.
To his Excellency the Right Honourable
The Governor General, &c., &c.,
Quebec.

NOVA SCOTIA.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-General Sir R. G. MACDONNELL to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 36.)

Government House, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
22nd November 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Province for the year 1863.

2. Not having assumed the administration of this Government till the latter part of June in the current year, I do not feel justified in forwarding any remarks on the contents of the Blue Book for a period previous to my arrival here.

3. The present Provincial Secretary could, under ordinary circumstances, have assisted me by compiling a very interesting summary of its contents, but I am precluded from hoping for such assistance in consequence of the very many and pressing demands at this moment on the time of that gentleman as well as of the leading members of the Ministry.

4. It is, however, a very great gratification to me to be able to report generally that the state of this Province was never more prosperous than at the present moment, and if it be my duty next year to transmit the Blue Book for 1864, I expect then to be able to forward a very gratifying picture of the general progress of the Colony during the current year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL.
Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor the Honourable ARTHUR GORDON to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 11.)

Government House, Fredericton, New Brunswick,
January 30th 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Books for 1863, together with my Report upon them.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

I have not yet been supplied by the Commissariat Department with all the information required on pages 52 and 53, but I am unwilling longer to delay the transmission of the Report.

I have, &e.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. GORDON.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT TO ACCOMPANY THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1863.

General Condition of the Province.

The year 1863 was one of general progress and prosperity in New Brunswick, the revenue having exceeded that of any previous year, and a marked increase of activity having been displayed in almost every branch of provincial industry.

2. On the 12th February I opened the second Session of the existing Provincial Parliament, which was closed by me on the 20th April, on which occasion I assented to 46 Acts, most of which were of a purely local character. Two, however, may perhaps, deserve more special mention, viz., the Act to authorize a loan, and for the construction and management of an Intercolonial Railway, and the Act to provide for the Regulation and Protection of the Fisheries.

3. Subsequent events have deprived the first of these Acts of much of the importance which originally attached to it. The Act gave legislative effect to the agreement entered into by the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, on the 12th September 1862, with reference to the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, which agreement was annexed to the body of the Act.

4. The Fishery Act was passed with a view to check the rapidly progressing destruction of the valuable coast and river fisheries of this province, and contains many provisions well suited to effect that object. As, however, it is unfortunately impossible to induce the provincial authorities generally to put these provisions in force, the law is well nigh universally disregarded, nor can I now entertain much hope that the impending extinction of the fisheries can be much longer delayed. I lament the short-sightedness which prevails in reference to this subject. It is, however, perhaps, not unnatural, although I should certainly have anticipated that less indifference would have been manifested by the public to the sacrifice of the interests of the many for the advantage of the few, which is entailed by the waste of resources which might so easily be maintained as a source of profit to future generations.

5. During the course of the summer and autumn, I made many extensive journies through the Province, and had the satisfaction of perceiving how large an amount of ease and comfort prevailed in almost every district. There is little positive wealth, but at the same time there is as little absolute poverty.

6. Such events as possessed any public interest were duly reported by me as they occurred, and none were of such importance as to render it necessary for me now to recall them to your recollection.

Revenue and Expenditure.

7. The Revenue for 1863 was larger than that collected in any previous year, being 183,450*l.* for the financial year ending October 31st 1863. A very large increase over that for the year ending October 31st 1862. I am happy, however, to add that the revenue derived during the present year from precisely the same sources has been even yet larger, and amounts, for the financial year ending October 31st 1864, to 220,300*l.* sterling, an increase of nearly 36,850*l.* over that of the previous year.

8. The expenditure for 1863 was 130,904*l.* 2*s.* 0½*d.*, that for 1862 had been 166,766*l.* sterling, and for 1861, 176,051*l.* sterling.

The expenditure for the present year has been somewhat larger than that for 1863, but I am happy to say that after every payment, including the interest of the provincial debt, &c. there will remain a surplus of from 20,000*l.* to 30,000*l.* sterling.

Trade and Navigation.

9. The total value of imports into New Brunswick in the year 1863 was 1,595,513*l.* sterling, an excess of 303,909*l.* sterling over the value of imports in 1862.

10. The total value of exports from New Brunswick during the same period was 1,029,329*l.* sterling, being an excess of 225,884*l.* over the value of exports in 1862.

11. It must, be borne in mind, however, that the value of the exports is not as fully shown as that of the imports. The ships built in the province are perhaps the most valuable article of export from it, but they do not appear in this account at all, and if their value, amounting to nearly 900,000*l.* sterling, were added, the scale would be considerably turned in favour of the exports. There are other causes which diminish the apparent amount of the exports, such as the fact that goods really exported from this province are shipped from the American bank of the St. Croix, and Canadian bank of the Restigouche, whilst large supplies for the State of Maine, passing through New Brunswick and entered as imports, are not also returned as exports, not being liable to duty as such.

12. 137 new vessels, measuring 85,250 tons register, were registered at the different ports of the province in 1863, being more than double the average of the five preceding years. Of this number, 46, measuring 44,270 tons, were built at St. John. The total tonnage cleared outwards during the year was 727,722, and the total tonnage entered inwards 659,253.

Public Works.

13. The expenditure on Public Works during the year 1863 amounted to $\$117{,}382\frac{65}{100}$, of which sum $\$62{,}886\frac{91}{100}$ were devoted to the maintenance of the great roads and bridges, and about $\$40{,}000$ spent upon the bye roads in the different counties. I have stated in previous reports that the condition of the great roads, 58 in number, and extending over a distance of about 2,200 miles, is in general suprisingly good. Their great defect arises from the fact that the culverts are seldom repaired with sufficient frequency. Inconvenient depressions, and even dangerous holes, are often formed in the roadway by their failure.

14. The bye roads, which cover the province in every direction, are exceedingly numerous, and are in some cases mere tracks of the roughest description, and almost impassable, whilst in other places they are fully equal to any of the great roads themselves.

15. Nine new bridges were built at the public expense in 1863. The largest of these, on road No. 49 over the * River, measures 870 feet in length and 20 feet in height.

* Sic in orig.

16. A sum of nearly $\$7{,}000$ was devoted to subsidies for steam communication with Canada, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia.

17. An expenditure of $\$4{,}479\frac{95}{100}$ was necessarily incurred at the Provincial Penitentiary, in consequence of a destructive fire which destroyed the workshops and hospital of that establishment.

Crown Lands.

18. 1,583 applications for land were received at the Crown Land Office in the year 1863.

19. Of these 557 were petitions for leave to purchase land at a sale by auction. The remaining 1,026 were applications under the Labour Act. The number of acres comprised in these applications cannot be exactly stated, as many of the lots have not been surveyed. The applications under the Labour Act are usually for 100 acres.

20. Five tracts of land, viz., two of 10,000 acres in the county of Carleton, one for the St. John Emigrant Aid Association, of 10,000 acres in the county of Kent, one of 6,000 acres in the county of Carleton, and one of 5,000 acres in the county of Victoria, in all 41,000 acres, have been surveyed and set apart for actual settlement.

21. The number of licences to cut timber issued during 1863 was 1,147, and the amount realized from this source was $\$16{,}375{\cdot}85$, a sum by no means commensurate with the amount of timber cut.

European and North American Railway.

22. The receipts of this railway (which is the property of the Government) amounted in the financial year 1863 to $\$129{,}272\frac{52}{100}$. Of this sum $\$61{,}388\frac{78}{100}$ were derived from freight traffic, and $\$57{,}832\frac{70}{100}$ from passengers' tickets.

23. The expenses amounted during the same period to $\$88{,}534\frac{29}{100}$, thus leaving a net profit of $\$40{,}738\frac{23}{100}$, being nearly double that of the previous year.

24. This railway is a work of which the province has good reason to be proud, as from the solidity of its works and the care with which it has been constructed it is inferior to none in North America, and certainly far superior to any other in the British provinces including the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada.

25. The number of passengers during the year amounted to 3,064,406.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Post Office.

26. The receipts of this department amounted to $46,121\frac{12}{100}$, being $140 less than in 1862.

27. The expenditure was $67,384\frac{32}{100}$. For this constant excess of expenditure the transmission of newspapers by post entirely free of charge is largely answerable. No fewer than 1,840,332 newspapers were thus sent during the year. If a payment of only 1 cent were exacted on these the result would be a gain to the revenue of above $18,000, and would go far to cover the deficiency.

28. The number of letters posted was 833,625. It is worthy of remark that out of this number no fewer than 9,739 were dead letters.

29. I have for some time past recommended to my Government the adoption of a money order system between Great Britain and this country, and am happy to add that they have at length adopted my recommendation.

Militia and Volunteers.

30. The Militia of the province is divided into three classes.

Class A comprises the Volunteer portion of the force, all of whom are armed and uniformed. Many of the companies drill twice and all of them once a week. The cavalry, of which there are three troops, are attached to the Militia battalions in whose districts they are. They are armed with the sabre and long Enfield rifle, and are drilled as infantry when dismounted. The regiment of artillery consists of seven batteries; the men are very smart and well drilled, but their organization and armament are defective. One battery has no guns at all, and the others only two each—ten 3-pounders and two 6-pounders. These would now be nearly useless in any country, but especially useless in this which is quite unfitted for cavalry or field batteries. The artillery are however armed with the long Enfield rifle, to which weapon they would resort on actual service. The St. John Volunteer Battalion consists of six companies, fairly drilled, and only wanting a series of battalion drills to make them thoroughly efficient. The engineer company is well drilled, but have had no practice in field works. Many of the detached rural companies are very well drilled, but they have no opportunity of learning battalion movements. Their attendance is naturally not so regular as that of companies in towns, as the population is widely scattered through a large extent of country.

Class B consists of all able-bodied men (with certain exemptions) between the ages of 18 and 45 who do not belong to Class A. They are divided into 34 battalions, and at present are only called out for one day in the year. In the thinly populated districts they are mustered by companies, as no man is compelled to travel more than 12 miles to the rendezvous. In many regiments the officers are uniformed and tolerably acquainted with their drill, and several colonels now insist on aspirants for commissions going through a regular course of drill before being gazetted.

Class C includes all male inhabitants between 45 and 60. These are not called out but merely enrolled.

31. There is usually a camp every autumn during the firing for the Prince of Wales's Cup. In October 1863 this was held at Torryburn, in the vicinity of St. John, and was under the command of the adjutant-general. Military discipline was maintained, and the conduct of the men was very good during the whole time they were under canvas.

32. During the year 1863 the different volunteer companies in St. John were formed into one battalion, a step tending greatly to increase their efficiency and improve their discipline.

33. The sum annually voted by the Legislature for the support of the militia and volunteers is ludicrously inadequate, but in spite of every difficulty considerable progress has been made in the re-organization of the militia force, and the musters of the different regiments, which took place generally in 1863, and which were the first which had been held for more than ten years past, were for the most part far more satisfactory than I had ventured to anticipate.

Education.

34. The sum expended by the Government for educational purposes in 1863 amounted to $112,189.

Of this sum the parish and superior schools absorbed $78,269, whilst the direct contributions of the people in the different localities amounted to $100,217. The total number of these schools in operation during 1863 was 784, attended by about 28,000 scholars. Fifty-five new school houses were built during the year, many of them substantial and even handsome edifices.

35. $4,840 were devoted to the County Grammar Schools, and nearly the same sum expended on the Training School at St. John. NEW BRUNSWICK.

36. The University of New Brunswick continues in a tolerably satisfactory condition. The number of students attending that institution during the year was 49, and the number of pupils in the Collegiate School * *sic in orig.

37. In addition to the schools in connection with the Board of Education, there are various educational establishments of more or less pretension, under the direction of various religious bodies in the province, which receive some assistance from the Legislature in the aggregate amounting to $12,970.

December 31, 1864.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR. H. GORDON.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 4.

No. 4.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DUNDAS to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 77.)

Government House, Prince Edward Island,
28th November 1864.

SIR,

1. I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith duplicate copies of the Blue Book for the year 1863.

2. The year 1863 was one of prosperity to this Island. The harvest was an abundant one. The war in the United States created an unprecedented demand for oats, the staple produce of the colony, and this demand naturally caused a considerable rise in the prices of this product.

3. In addition to this, the trade in shipbuilding was unusually brisk, and the tonnage of vessels launched exceeded that of any previous year.

4. The most important point on which I have to remark with regard to the returns comprised in the present Blue Book, is the great improvement in the financial condition of the colony.

5. Since the year 1853 the expenditure has been annually in excess of the revenue. In the year 1862 it exceeded it by 8,590*l.*

6. I brought the financial state of the colony prominently before the Legislature in the speech with which I opened the session on the 3rd of March 1863. I particularly directed its attention to the system under which individual members of the Legislature had the power to propose grants of money for any purpose, and urged it to consider the propriety of placing the appropriation of the revenue under the direct control of those to whom the responsibility of administering public affairs was entrusted. The Legislature readily adopted this principle, and passed a resolution yielding to the executive the exclusive right to initiate money votes in the House of Assembly.

7. With a view to equalizing the revenue and expenditure of the current year, it was deemed advisable to modify to a certain extent the free education system; a measure was therefore passed reducing the Government allowance to teachers by about one-third, and providing for the deficiency by the voluntary contributions of the parents in the several school districts, or in default of these contributions by local assessment. Praiseworthy as free education undoubtedly is, I have considerable doubts as to the success which practically attended it here; I believe, that the people have not sufficiently appreciated what they apparently obtained for nothing, and that the direct taxation consequent on the modification of the system will stimulate them not only to send their children to school with greater regularity, but also to take a greater interest in their district schools and in the efficiency of the teachers.

8. The new Act did not come into operation until a considerable part of the year had passed, but there was nevertheless a decrease of 450*l.* in the expenditure on education in place of the usual yearly increase.

9. The ad valorem duties on imports were raised from 7*l.* 10*s.* to 10*l.* per 100*l.* The unprecedented activity of trade and the consequent productiveness of these duties gave

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

a return of 30,704*l.* against 17,136*l.* collected in 1862, or an increase of 13,568*l.* from this source of revenue alone.

10. The revenue for the year was 41,125*l.*, 15,496*l.* more than the revenue of 1862, and nearly 35 per cent. in excess of that of any previous year: the expenditure was 36,441*l.*, about 2,000*l.* more than of 1862.

11. The revenue exceeded the expenditure by 4,684*l.* and the public debt is thus reduced from 54,803*l.* to 50,119*l.*

12. 3,522*l.* included in the revenue and 1,925*l.* in the expenditure are amounts received from the the sale of lands or expended in their purchase from proprietors, and cannot be considered as ordinary revenue and expenditure.

General Commerce.

13. The value of imports was 293,431*l.*, an increase of 82,191*l.* on the value of those of 1862. The value of exports was 209,472*l.* an increase of 58,923*l.* on the value of those of the preceding year.

14. From these returns it would appear that the value of imports exceeded that of exports by 83,959*l.*, but no account is taken of vessels built in the island while their material, rigging, &c. are included in the imports. 100 vessels of the aggregate burden of 24,991 tons were built in the year 1863. The value of these vessels, about 125,000*l.*, added to the exports, leaves a balance of about 40,000*l.* in favour of the colony.

15. From the Custom House Returns it appears that this island imported nearly half its requirements from the United Kingdom, and exported more than half of its products to the United States.

Councils and Assemblies.

16. A general election for the House of Assembly took place early in the year, and resulted in a considerable majority being returned to support the existing Government.

17. Since the general election of 1859 all holders of salaried offices had been excluded from seats in the Legislature, in conformity with pledges made on the hustings by the present Government party, which was, previous to that election, in opposition. The practical inconveniences which attended this experiment proved greater than those which it was intended to remedy, and at the election of 1863 this system was so far modified that two salaried officers, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary, came forward as candidates, and were returned as Members of the House of Assembly. In my opinion a further extension of the Departmental system, and the appointment of a Financial Secretary with a seat in the House, would be advantageous.

18. A few weeks after the election for the Lower House the first election of the Upper House took place under the Act which had been passed in the previous year " to change the constitution of the Legislative Council by rendering the same elective."

19. The qualification for electors under this Act is fixed at freehold or leasehold property of the value of 100*l.* currency, or lands partly freehold and partly leasehold amounting together in value to that sum. A candidate for the Council is required to be a British subject, thirty years of age, who has been resident in the colony for five years previous to the election.

20. Seven of the thirteen Members elected were members of the nominated Council at the time of its dissolution. Of these seven, five had been placed in the old Council by me since my assumption of the Government of this Province. Nine of the thirteen elected Members were returned to support the policy of the party composing the majority in the Lower House. The first Elective Council, therefore, was in harmony with the popular branch of the Legislature.

Military Expenditure.

21. The amount expended by the Colony towards its own defence was 285*l.* Of this 266*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* was appropriated for the Volunteer Service, and 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* is the salary by statute of the Adjutant General of Militia. With this inadequate grant it was obviously impossible for me to do much to maintain the discipline and efficiency of the Volunteer Force. I have to rely mainly upon the patriotism and liberality of the Volunteers themselves, and to them individually is due all the credit of the movement in this island.

22. In my Despatch which accompanied the Blue Book for 1862, I directed the Secretary of State's attention to the Militia Law. I have recently received your Despatch, No. 24, of 15th October, containing the views of Her Majesty's Government on this law, which, as you justly remark, is without a parallel in British North America, and I entirely concur in your opinion, that if in time of peace a community neglects those

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

precautions by which its independence against foreign aggression can be secured, its safety must be more than imperiled in time of war.

It affords me much satisfaction to express my belief, that within the last few years a feeling has been rising in this community, that it is hardly keeping pace with the neighbouring colonies in measures of self-defence; and I trust that during next session an Act for the amendment of the Militia Law will be proposed to the Legislature.

23. Whenever that measure is proposed, and the Legislature is asked to appropriate for that service a reasonable grant of money, without which all legislation on the subject is useless, I trust that the measure will not be treated as a party one, but that Members of the Legislature, irrespective of party, will vie in perfecting an enactment calculated to place the Militia in a position creditable to the people of this colony, and suitable to the privileges and free institutions which they enjoy.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEORGE DUNDAS,
Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 5.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MUSGRAVE to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 8.)

Government House, Newfoundland,
19th October 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you one copy of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1863.

2. It would be out of place for me to offer any comment upon these tables, which relate to a period which had expired nine months before my arrival in the Colony, with whose affairs I am as yet, of course, but imperfectly acquainted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE.

The Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &. &.

BERMUDA.

No. 6.

BERMUDA.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor ORD to His Grace the DUKE of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 34.)

Bermuda,
April 18, 1864.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Grace the Blne Book for the year 1863, on which there is very little to call for observation.

2. *Taxes.*

The increase in the Revenue of the year 1861 was followed by a further reduction of the principal item of taxation, that on Imports, from 3 to 2 per cent.; notwithstanding this reduction the development of the trade with the blockaded ports of the Confederate States has produced during the past year a still further augmentation of

BERMUDA.

3. *Revenue,*

which has risen from 21,804*l.* to 24,259*l.*; whilst the

4. *Expenditure*

has at the same time somewhat diminished, being but 18,513*l.* as compared with 19,298*l.* in 1862.

There is now a clear surplus in the Colonial Treasury of between 8,000*l.* and 9,000*l.*

5. *Imports and Exports.*

Imports have fully maintained the advance made last year, and stood at 242,893*l.* against 238,932*l.* Exports have on the contrary fallen back to about their former average, 29,650*l.*

6. *General Observations.*

Although the general prosperity of the country is sufficiently evidenced by its increased Revenue with reduced taxation, and a high rate of wages without any corresponding advance in the prices of the necessaries of life, the facts remain as they were stated by me last year, that these advantages are not the result of any efforts of our own, but are due to causes over which we have no control, and which may, and probably will, disappear as suddenly as they have arisen, leaving (it is to be feared) the people less fitted than they were to cope with the altered condition of affairs to which they will be exposed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. ST. GEORGE ORD,
Governor and Commander in Chief.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

No. 7.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor SEYMOUR to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 22.)

New Westminster, British Columbia.
30th August 1864.

SIR,

I MUST offer to you my sincere apologies for the delay which has occurred in reporting to you officially on several matters of importance. My excuse is simply this, that I have been engaged on a work of vital interest to the Colony for many weeks, during which I was in a wild country, without pen or paper, and my communications with the civilized portions of our territory generally cut off by the insurgent Indians.

2. I hope by increased exertions soon to make up for this inevitable delay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

The Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, M.P.
&c. &c &c.

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor KENNEDY, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 40.)

SIR, Victoria, July 7, 1864.

1. I HAVE the honor to transmit the Blue Book of Vancouver Island for the year 1863, being the first that has ever been compiled for this Colony.

2. I received this book from the Colonial Secretary a few days before his departure from the Colony in the middle of May, and a pressure of business has prevented me from verifying its contents until now.

3. It is not my intention to offer any lengthened comments upon tables and statistics, which I do not think very reliable; and this being the first Blue Book of Vancouver Island, there are no comparisons to make.

4. I must, however, offer some observations with a view to correct erroneous statements which have been placed before Her Majesty's Government, in reference to the finance and taxation of this Colony.

5. It has been stated authoritatively that this island is "overburdened" by taxation. I will therefore recapitulate the taxes levied:—

Real Estate Tax which produced in 1863 -	£8,854.
Trade Licences - - - - -	£3,687.
Liquor Licences - - - -	£4,914.
Harbour Dues - - - - -	£3,563.

The details and rates of these taxes will be found at pages one and two of the Blue Book.

6. The ports of the island are free, and there are no import or export duties of any kind.

7. The Real Estate Tax of one per cent. per annum upon the assessed market value of all real estate is that which has been dwelt upon as most oppressive and "burdensome."

8. I have no intention of discussing the policy of this tax, but it can hardly be considered "burdensome" when compared with the tax for selling liquors (I think too low) which realized £4,914, or more than half that paid by the whole real estate of the Colony.

9. When the amount raised by trade licences, £3,687, (including various professions and callings) is compared with the value of imports, I think it will be apparent that the commercial interest is not overburdened with taxes.

10. I believe the following may be taken as a nearly correct value of the imports:—

1861.	1862.	1863.
$2,018,424.	$2,550,242.	$3,860,430.
£416,299.	£525,987.	£796,213.

11. There being no import duties the bulk of the population escape taxation in any form whatever, while the merchants and traders pay a tax of 3,687*l.* for Trades' Licences, being less than one half per cent. upon their sales.

12. There has been a net increase of revenue, including loans, in 1863, as compared with 1862, of 26,343*l.*, while there has been an increase of expenditure of 22,689*l.*

13. The state of the roads and land communication is very defective, though an expenditure of 18,000*l.* has been incurred in 1862 and 1863, and a large outlay voted for the current year. The law and practice in connection with this important subject stand greatly in need of amendment and will occupy my immediate attention.

14. The same may be said in reference to the survey, sale, leasing, and general management of public lands.

15. A project for dredging and deepening the harbour of Victoria has been entered upon, I think, unadvisedly, and without sufficient data, which will, I fear, result in the useless expenditure of a large sum of money.

16. The population are orderly, loyal, and prosperous; pauperism is unknown.

17. The condition of the Indian population is very lamentable: drunkenness and prostitution being the prevailing and prominent characteristics. I refrain from further notice of this matter, which will be made the subject of a separate despatch at an early period.

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

18. The capability of this Colony to support a population has been much discussed, and very opposite views expressed. There is, in my opinion, sufficient agricultural land of fine quality to support a million of people, and the climate is unexceptionable and most salubrious.

19. Expensive and defective postal and other communication are the great bar to progress, and reflect but little credit upon two great nations—England and America. A "Times" newspaper costs fourpence postage, and that for a book is entirely prohibitory.

20. It is surprising how little is known of the resources and interior of this island. Loose assertion and surmise have been accepted in lieu of accurate examination or survey. To remedy this great want I have recently despatched an exploring party under an intelligent leader, liberally supported by private subscription in aid of the Government expenditure. The first report from this party is highly encouraging.

21. I can see nothing to retard the steady progress and prosperity of this island if the colonists are prudent and true to themselves.

I have, &c.,

To the Right Hon. E. Cardwell, M.P. (Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
&c. &c. &c. Governor.

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 9.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor BLACKALL to The Right Honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE.

(No. 59.) Government House, Sierra Leone,
SIR, May 12, 1864.

I HAVE the honor to forward to you the Blue Book for the year 1863.

2. The details will, I think, fully bear out the few observations I made last year on the prosperity of this colony. Notwithstanding the serious interruption to trade consequent on the American War, and enhanced price of cotton goods, the revenue from Customs has increased, and the total revenue for the year has fully met the expenditure.

3. The establishments at Sherboro, Bulama, and Juiah have considerably added to the expenses of this colony, and the first-named dependency alone has as yet contributed to swell the revenue. I hope during the current year to obtain some small return from the others; but there are still heavy public works to be carried out, in completing barracks, and building managers' houses and court houses at all these stations.

4. I have every reason to be gratified at the evident good feeling entertained by all the neighbouring native chiefs towards this Government. Any remonstrance addressed to them by me on complaints from British subjects has uniformly been attended to, and any interference of mine to prevent hostilities amongst themselves has been generally successful.

5. Nor can I pass over the loyalty and good conduct of the inhabitants of the colony, though unfortunately the gaol is somewhat crowded; the offences will not be found to be of an aggravated character, whilst obedience to the laws and increased civilization mark the bulk of the population.

6. Of all the establishments which I have seen on the west coast of Africa, Sierra Leone appears to me to be the best suited as a depôt for supplying the demands of the neighbouring countries, and for the exportation of native produce; the harbour is safe and easy of access, fresh water and provisions are to be had in abundance, whilst the increased clearing and draining have materially improved the climate.

7. I have already submitted a scheme for a loan for public works by which these advantages could be introduced. In addition, I think, that all legislation here should have for its object the encouragement of commerce, by reducing as far as possible import and tonnage dues. Direct taxation might be increased without injustice, and smaller import duties (without drawback on re-exportation) would probably soon realize nearly as large a revenue as is now collected, at the same time materially diminish the expense of collection.

8. Whilst I point out the advantages obtainable in a commercial point of view, I am by no means insensible to the vast improvements which might be made by the population dependent upon agriculture, and the great benefits to be thereby derived by the colony. I have already commenced a survey of lands for sale; an exhibition of native art manufacture and agricultural productions is proposed to be held in December next. And from the desire already apparent to obtain land for purchase, and the support given by Europeans and natives, I have sanguine hopes of success, both in giving a stimulus to the increased production of exportable articles and in introducing improved mechanical skill amongst the manufacturing population.

9. For the purpose of endeavouring to introduce improved means of carriage and agriculture, I have imported, for the use of the department of public works, three pairs of working oxen from Madeira. The economy of this mode of transport is already apparent, and I cannot but think great improvements in this respect might be made in the commissariat and other military departments; at present all military stores and supplies, heavy baggage, and even the daily rations of the troops are conveyed from Freetown to Tower Hill barracks by human labour alone, the favourite mode being on the heads of labourers.

10. The health of the colony during the past year has been very satisfactory, and if increased facility of intercourse with the outlying stations were granted, I could report that every arrangement regarding this government was now advantageously established.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State, (Signed) SAMUEL W. BLACKALL.
&c. &c. &c.

GAMBIA.

No. 10.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor D'Arcy to the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.

(No. 69.) Government House, Bathurst, Gambia,
Right Honourable Sir, October 18, 1864.

I do myself the honour of transmitting herewith the Blue Book for the year 1863, and beg to report as follows:—

Customs.

2. It gives me great pleasure to point to the immense increase in the Imports and Exports of the past year. The following is a Comparative Statement of the Imports and Exports for the years 1862 and 1863, by which you will perceive that during the past year the increase in the Imports and Exports over 1862 (a fair average year) amounts to the very large sum of 63,392*l.*

——	In 1862.	In 1863.	Increase in the Year 1863 over 1862.
	£	£	£
Imports and Exports - -	254,246	317,638	63,392

3. The duty collected at the Custom House during the years 1862 and 1863 is shown by the following Comparative Return, by which an increase of 2,072*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* is shown in 1863 over and above the Customs receipts of 1862:—

——		In 1863.	Increase in 1863 over 1862.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Total Duty received - -	9,246 6 3	11,318 9 11	2,072 3 8

4. This increase in the Customs revenue is entirely attributable to the alteration in the fiscal law (which came into operation on the 1st of January 1863), substituting an export duty on ground-nuts and hides for a four per cent. ad valorem import duty. It is with some complacency I make this report, as I persevered in moving His Grace, your predecessor, to allow me to bring forward so desirable a reform; and when I find in this one department alone the increase of 2,072*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* in our revenue, I look back with some satisfaction to my unremitting exertions in and out of doors to bring about a change in our Customs Laws, which I foresaw would be fraught with such beneficial results to this little Colony.

5. Furthermore, it is only natural to infer that the law will work most favourably to the interests of humanity in this benighted country. It will naturally be the deep interest of future executives in all time to endeavour, by kind mediation, to prevent the natives from engaging in their constant wars, as they must take more interest in the cultivation of the soil than formerly when the bulk of the Revenue was derived from Imports. From the hour of my arrival, now upwards of five years ago, I persevered unceasingly in this idea in carrying out this reform, which I believe will be an incalculable benefit to the Colony.

6. The following is a Comparative Statement of Customs Duties received during the years 1862 and 1863:—

TABLE A.

Articles.	Amount of Duty received in 1862.	Amount of Duty received in 1863.	Increase or Decrease in Duty collected in 1863.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Export duty on ground nuts and hides	1,782 6 1 (4% ad valor. duty)	3,343 14 2	2,227 0 6 Increase.
Wines and spirits	2,789 6 9	2,667 19 9	121 7 0 Decrease.
Tobacco	806 14 11	551 18 4	254 16 7 Decrease.
Cola nut duty	456 0 0	615 10 0	159 10 0 Increase.
Palm wine duty	459 11 9	506 15 3	47 3 6 Increase.
Tonnage duty	2,252 4 0	2,011 4 0	241 0 0 Decrease.
Quarantine dues	113 8 0	119 14 0	6 6 0 Increase.
Pilotage	569 10 0	765 13 0	196 3 0 Increase.
Auction duty	17 10 2	69 6 10	51 16 8 Increase.

Ground Nuts and Hides.

7. I have already herein stated that the export duty on Ground Nuts and Hides was substituted for the ad-valorem duty of four per cent. on articles imported. The law came into operation on the 1st of January 1863. The success of the export duty has been most decided, and has, with a barely average Ground Nut crop of 1863, fully justified my most sanguine expectations. It will be seen by the foregoing table that the export duty on Ground Nuts and Hides in 1863 exceeded by 2,227*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* the four per cent. ad valorem duty of 1862 for which the Export Duty was substituted.

Wine and Spirits.

8. The apparent decrease of 121*l.* 7*s.* 0*d.* duty on Wine and Spirits in 1863, shown in the foregoing table (marked A) is to be accounted for by the fact, that by the Customs Ordinance, 1863, greater facilities were given to importers to give bonds, payable in twelve months, for duty on Wine and Spirits, and many merchants availed themselves of the privileges granted by the recent law. The bonds at the Custom House, however, show an increase of nearly 1,000*l.* in the duty on Wine and Spirits for the past year, but these bonds will not be due for twelve months from the importation of the articles, so that the duty will appear in the cash accounts of the present year, 1864.

Tobacco.

9. The decrease of 254*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* in the actual duty received on Tobacco during the past year may, as in the case of Wine and Spirits, be fully shown to have arisen from the fact that by the Customs Ordinance, 1863, bonds payable in twelve months were then for the first time allowed to be given for the duty on Tobacco. Of this twelvemonth's credit for the duty, thus given under the new law, the importers readily availed themselves; and notwithstanding the quantity of Tobacco imported in 1863 exceeded in value by nearly 5,000*l.* the imports of the same article in 1862, yet the actual duty paid in at the Custom House (not including the bonds) is 254*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* less. But this apparent deficit is more than out-balanced by the amount of duty on Tobacco that is now coming into the Colonial Treasury under last year's bonds at twelvemonth's which are falling due during the present year (1864).

Cola Nut Duty.

10. The Cola Nut duty of 1863 has increased in amount upwards of one-third on the receipts of the previous year, which showed more than an average importation. This increase I attribute to the courtesy shown to my representations by the Directors of the Royal Mail African Steam Company, who met my proposition most liberally by reducing the freight of the baskets of Colas between Sierra Leone and the Gambia from twelve shillings to eight shillings a basket. The spread of Mohammedanism may, perhaps, conjointly with the above, be another reason for the increase in the sale af the Cola Nut. The Marabout or Mohammedan is almost the sole consumer of the Cola, and he is firmly attached to the belief that should he die with a portion of the Cola Nut in his stomach, his eternal happiness is secure.

Palm Wine Duty.

11. The steady increase in the Palm Wine duty, I attribute to the improved means of communication between the mainland and Bathurst. The Jolahs, upon coming from their country in the Palm Wine season, reside at Jeswang, a part of our territory in British

Combo, about six miles from Bathurst. The neighbourhood of Jeswang, a deep creek, frequented by alligators, runs transversely across the road to Bathurst. Here I have constructed a good bridge, at little cost (73*l.*), over which the poor Jolahs can pass dryshod at all tides; whereas, previous to its construction, for 12 hours out of the 24, the creek was passable only at great risk, several persons having been lost in attempting the ford. Moreover, a fine hard road from Jeswang to Bathurst now affords the Jolahs a ready means of arriving at a good market for their wholesome and refreshing beverage,—Palm Wine. Before 1863 the heavy sand was a great drawback to those who carried heavy loads, and deterred the young and feeble from attempting the journey.

Tonnage Dues.

12. The decrease in these dues during 1863 is, I think, to be accounted for by the circumstance that during the past year many large vessels made frequent entries into this port, taking with them cargoes for Europe, and returning speedily for fresh ones, thus making as many as three and four voyages each during the year; and as the Tonnage dues are only payable on the first entry into the port, in each year, each vessel, after her first entry, escaped all Tonnage dues, no matter how many times she might come into the port during the year.

Quarantine Dues.

13. These dues are gradually increasing, owing to the number of small craft, principally from the French settlement of Goree, which, since the opening of the river, the merchants employ in increasing numbers as ground-nut droguers. These cutters, as well as those which constantly ply between this and the neighbouring French settlements with letters, &c., are chargeable with the quarantine fee.

Pilotage.

14. An increase of nearly 200*l.* under this head of last year's Revenue shows the healthy state of the Pilotage department, and that my exertions to keep up the efficiency of the establishment have not been wholly unrewarded.

Auction Dues.

15. The Auction duty for 1863 has indeed made a very considerable advance upon the previous year, but from no apparent assignable cause.

16. The following table may be interesting as showing the great stride our commerce has made duriug the past year. It contains a statement of the amount of Imports of the staple articles of trade during 1863, comparing their value with the Imports of the same articles in 1862. Although but three of the articles enumerated in the table, viz., wine, spirits, and tobacco, pay duty, yet the comparative statement is instructive as showing the impetus trade has received by relieving the Imports of the pressing four per cent. ad-valorem tax, and substituting an unfelt and yet large Export duty, thereby materially increasing the Revenue.

TABLE B.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Value of the Staple Articles of Imports during the Years 1862 and 1863.

Articles.	Value of Articles imported in 1862.	Value of Articles imported in 1863.	Increase in 1863.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ale and porter	1,626 16 0	2,108 0 0	481 4 0
Amber and coral	626 14 0	2,166 18 0	1,540 4 0
Arms and ammunition, including guns, cutlasses, and balls and shot.	3,966 9 0	14,660 9 10	10,694 0 10
Gunpowder	3,619 8 0	4,131 0 0	511 12 0
Beads and shells	545 4 6	1,279 2 1	733 17 7
Brass rods and metal in sheets and rods	130 8 0	732 5 0	601 16 9
Bread, biscuit, and flour	809 8 9	3,622 3 5	2,812 13 9
Cotton goods and yarn	21,963 8 5	31,202 1 0	9,238 12 7
Hardware	3,246 7 0	7,352 9 2	4,106 2 2
Rice, clean (foreign)	6,098 13 6	19,350 14 8	13,252 1 2
Soap and candles	776 14 5	1,559 19 7	783 5 2
Spirits, all kinds	9,594 12 8	10,575 7 1	980 14 5
Tobacco	17,771 11 2	22,333 2 11	4,561 11 9
Wine	1,755 3 9	3,340 14 0	1,585 10 3
The Increase on the above Articles in the Imports of 1863 over 1862		£	51,883 6 5

GAMBIA.

17. By the foregoing table (B.) it will be readily seen, on the few articles mentioned therein, the immense increase in the Imports of 1863 as compared with those of the preceding year, 51,883*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, being the figures representing the increase in the Imports of the staple articles alone. The value of the imports of each staple article of trade in 1863, it will be perceived, too, is greater than that of the foregoing year; and upon referring to the Blue Books of the Colony, I find that in no previous year have the Imports of 1863 been ever equalled.

Arms and Ammunition and Gunpowder.

18. The great increase of 10,694*l.* on Arms and Ammunition, and 511*l.* on Gunpowder, I attribute to the Native wars that have unfortunately been carried on in this river between the Marabouts and Soninkees, for upwards of two years past.

Brass Rods and Hardware.

19. Shows a very large increase on 1862. The increase on Brass Rods is 601*l.*, and on Hardware of all kinds 4,106*l.* It is not easy to assign a cause for this great increase.

Bread, Biscuit, and Flour, and Rice (Foreign).

20. The unprecedented increase in the importation of these articles during the past year is clearly to be attributed to the famine, caused, in the countries bordering on this river, by the Native wars that have been carried on in our neighbourhood now for upwards of two years past. The corn-growing districts have been desolated, the Soninkee villages burnt, and the poor starving Natives themselves, many hundreds in number, driven by the Mohammedan sword, and the still more powerful assailant, Famine, to seek that support and protection within our Settlements which their burning and desolate homes could not afford. In default of corn or millet, their usual subsistence, these starving immigrants gladly adopted as food, bread and imported rice, exchanging the few rude silver articles of Native ornament and dress saved by them on the sacking of their towns, for the more essential articles of life. I am glad, however, to say that the Natives this year (1864), yielding to my earnest solicitations, have in many parts of the river again directed their attention to agriculture, and the country on both sides of the river is now, while I write, a beautiful sight, and a promise of a rich harvest presents itself.

Cotton.

21. I have so frequently reported what strides the cultivation of this article is taking, that my observations under this head must be necessarily brief, although important. The increasing ratio is striking, and even exceeds in proportion the industrial progress shown in former reports of the ground-nut produce, so much required in France, grown along the banks of the Gambia.

22. In 1862 4 cwt. of Cotton was exported; in 1863 the amount suddenly rose to 54 cwt., being 1,250 per cent., or 13½ as much as in 1862; and again, in 1864, I have the pleasure to add that no less an amount than 200 cwt. has already now, in October, left the port, being 146 per cent., or nearly 3¾ times as much as in 1862; or, to be more minute in the calculation, comparing the export of the article with 1862, the year of the taking of Fort Sumter, it is 4,900 per cent. more, or fifty times as much.

23. It is interesting to compare this sudden industry with the development of the Ground Nut trade. In 1837 only 671 tons were exported, but in 1858 the amount rose to 15,729 tons, being 2,244 per cent. or nearly 23½ times as much as in 1837. Now if Cotton goes on increasing for 21 years at the same rate it has done within the last two years,—no unreasonable inference under present political aspects,—the export of Cotton will be 350 times as much as in 1862. The amount ready for exportation in 1883, according to this calculation, will be 80 tons from this one river Gambia alone; and as there are about 20 noble streams between the Senegal and St. Paul de Loando, 1,600 tons may in 1883 adorn the Liverpool docks from this hitherto unproductive and despised continent.

24. The upper river is capable of producing a large quantity of Cotton. The banks are clothed with Foutah villages, whose specialities are corn, cotton, butter, and soap. But in order to improve and stimulate the growth of Cotton in this locality, where the staple is inclined to be short, more Egyptian seed must be distributed by special Government agency, otherwise it cannot command a high value in the home market.

25. Mr. Quin, a merchant of this Colony, a gentleman of great enterprise, has exported to Germany a considerable quantity of cotton in grain unginned, so that this year the Gambia will make a respectable figure in such a desirable export. This circumstance leads me to point out the great necessity of importing no other gin than the real American saw gin, invented by the immortal Witney. Some years ago I was in favour of the small Turkish or Maltero gin, owing to its cheapness; but I find that it is not so effective. Under European superintendence the American saw gin, with good cotton, will convert 1,920 lbs. of cotton in grain to 480 lbs. of clean cotton in one day.

26. May I request that you will do me the favour, Right Honourable Sir, to send this part of my report to the Manchester Cotton Association, the details being suggestive of considerable progress in the increased cultivation of this sad vacuum in British imports, causing so much misery and distress to the noble and long-suffering operatives of Manchester and the northern counties.

27. I am sorry that I have quite failed to induce our own liberated Africans to leave their small trading business up the rivers, and adopt the more honourable and most interesting occupation of agriculture, carrying on the multifarious processes of production which are so many new branches of agriculture; take, for instance, the Madia sativa, an equally oleaginous seed, not taking up one tenth of the bulk of the ground nut, or requiring so much trouble in the cultivation. Again, with so much profit to themselves, they might make fortunes by drawing subsistence from the rivers and the deep waters of the sea, abounding in fish of the finest kind, instead of buying salt fish imported from America at high prices. 500 lbs. of large fish were caught by the crew of the "Dover" 28th July 1863, when at anchor off red buoy, in one night, and salted down on board, realizing about 5*l.* sterling.

Improvements.

28. The year 1863 will ever be remarkable in colonial history. Suddenly it was announced to me by Charles Wasser, a liberated African, in charge of Berwick Town, Barra Point, that an unarmed starving multitude had arrived in his town, begging for food, and protection from the sword and brand of the Mohammedan warrior, Maba. It was, indeed, a sad sight, and one rarely seen. To use the words of Mungo Park, I could not help being convinced that "whatever difference there is between the Negro and the European "in the conformation of the nose and the colour of the skin, there is none in the genuine "sympathies and characteristic feelings of our common nature." Accompanied by Mr. Brown and the acting Colonial Chaplain, Mr. Robbin, I walked along lanes of the most harrowing misery. No word of complaint escaped them; all seemed to resign themselves with resignation to the inevitable decrees of a higher Power,—dying in our presence from starvation, too weak even to lift the cooked food we brought with us, to their mouths. Two hundred of the little children of this exodus I bound as apprentices to tradespeople, who by the new Apprentice Law are bound "to treat the said apprentice "humanely, finding him and providing unto him or her good and sufficient board, lodging, "apparel, and all necessaries, during the aforesaid term; and further that the said master "or mistress shall allow the said apprentice to attend a place of public worship once every "Sunday throughout the year, &c." And the able-bodied I crossed over to Saint Mary's, encamping them on the bush, giving them a good ration for a good day's work,—carrying decomposed oyster shell to the Clifton Road,—which rapidly, under this unlooked-for aid, has extended itself to the convalescent station at Cape Saint Mary's, a distance of seven miles from the town of Bathurst. Very soon a striking change took place in the market, showing the great want of a road near so large a town as Bathurst. Before the road was commenced the building was nothing more than a bead bazaar, whereas now it abounds in cassava, yams, fowls, eggs, butter, and all the necessaries of life.

29. In my relations with the Natives during this year, especially during the trouble in Lower Combo last February, when the civil war was on the point of breaking out, I was surprised to find the power I possessed to allay the fierce passions which religion and the ambition of governing had excited in the mind of the Negro. Casually I mentioned this to a Native of intelligence, and his answer struck me as forcible: "Can you not "see the reason? We black men do not practise good deeds, but we respect virtue. "When we saw your Government last year feeding thousands, receiving no adequate "reward, we all felt proud that we live under the shadow of the Great Queen of "England; and you as her Representative, can mould us to your bidding."

3. A Prussian diplomatist of some celebrity, Baron Hesse, was ordered by the late King of Prussia to draw up a report, for the information of his sovereign, of the British West India regiments. At the conclusion of his visit, when taking his farewell dinner at the regimental mess of the corps I then had the honour to command, he proposed as a toast, "The continued prosperity of the three great African missionaries," gracefully

GAMBIA.

implying how much civilization was advanced by the embodiment of the three West India regiments. And I trust I may be allowed to name "The Apprentice Ordinance" as another missionary, likely in years to come to render the Gambia more like Sierra Leone, by raising up a Christian population on a Christian island hitherto swamped by the many resident Joloffs, who, although friendly to the Government and peaceful, have not the elements of progression, and do not recognize a religion of any kind.

31. I have the honour to annex the Hospital Report drawn up by the Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Sherwood, M.D., of 1863; by which you will observe, Right Honourable Sir, that although the Settlement is only in its infancy, yet we possess institutions where the local afflicted of every class finds relief, and where the poor European mariner, worn with fever and stifled by the hot air of the hold of his ship, is tended with such professional skill and kindness in nursing that seldom are we saddened by hearing of any fatal case.

32. The usual endemic fever has frowned but passed over the two Settlements of Gambia and Sierra Leone. During the last fortnight of September not a European was to be seen at the office; and at Sierra Leone five Europeans died, but we had no fatal case. I attribute this exemption to the simple circumstance that this year we have the Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Sherwood, resident amongst us. His knowledge of the necessary treatment of the fever is so profound, that as yet, after nearly six years of colonial service, he has never lost a patient from this scourge; and I am glad to add that I was the first to make this fact public, and it has since been admitted by acclamation in the Colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. D'ARCY,
Governor.

The Right Hon. E. Cardwell, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 10.

SIR, Colonial Hospital, Bathurst, Gambia, 22nd October 1864.

IN HANDING you my third yearly Report I regret to say you will find the number of patients received into Hospital far exceed those of 1861 or 1862; yet at the same time it is gratifying to state that the increase is not attributable to any "epidemic," or want of sanitary regulations, but to the great increase of starving people that have been crowding into our little town since the commencement of the war, and indeed are still; and I fear that when the time comes for me to hand you the report for this year you will find as great an excess over 1863 as 1863 has over the two previous years.

Had I met with opposition from you, instead of every aid and assistance, I do not know to what extent disease and death might not have reached. And this year, by your opening the "Liberated African yard," feeding and nourishing the starving, I do not hesitate to say, you have saved the Colony from a great calamity.

Having been absent from the Colony the last four months of the past year, I can only speak of the cases in hospital previous to then, all of which were ordinary ones, therefore unnecessary to comment on.

In my capacity as "sheriff" I have already called your attention to the unhealthy state of the cells in the goal, and attribute to it the disease which is so fatal amongst the prisoners—Dropsy, commonly called the gaol disease; and I am happy to say your kind and prompt attention to my report, accompanying myself at all hours of the night to the gaol, and adopting my suggestions for improvement may have been the means of causing the entire disappearance of that disease.

I cannot close these few remarks without complimenting you on the few sick we have had in the gaol this sickly season, which I consider, in addition to the improvements in the gaol, is owing to your having kept half the prisoners at the "Cape," and their minds occupied by work, hence avoiding the overcrowding of the cells.

I have, &c.
His Excellency Col. G. d'Arcy, (Signed) W. H. SHERWOOD, M.D.
Governor. Colonial Surgeon.

GOLDCOAST.

GOLD COAST.

No. 11.

No. 11.

[Not received.]

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 12.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir P. Wodehouse, K.C.B., to the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.

(No. 91.)

Sir, King William's Town, September 12, 1864.

I have the honour to forward for your consideration the Blue Book for the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope for the year 1863.

I regret to state that the accounts of revenue and expenditure exhibit an unfavourable appearance; and that while the receipts of revenue fall short of those of 1862, there is unfortunately an increase in the expenditure of the two years. The receipts of all descriptions in 1863 amount to 757,000*l.* against 716,000*l.* in 1862; but while the latter include only 170,000*l.* borrowed in the course of that year, an addition was made to the debt of the Colony in the course of 1863 to the amount of no less than 266,000*l.* The expenditure of 1863, notwithstanding the exertions made by the Government to restrict it as far as practicable, exceeded that of 1863 by 13,000*l.* Such a result of the transactions of the year was by no means unexpected, and the Government made every effort in its power to induce the Parliament to give its assent to measures calculated to retrieve the credit of the Colony.

But the attempt was made under circumstances peculiarly unfavourable. Great commercial and agricultural depression prevailed everywhere, and the Parliament itself was in the last year of its existence. It was, therefore, to be expected that the members of the two Houses would not feel disposed to grapple effectually with the difficulties that presented themselves, but would prefer (as actually took place) obtaining temporary relief from fresh loans, and bequeathing to the coming Parliament the unwelcome task of imposing on their constituents such additional taxation as might be shown to be indispensable; and I am happy to be able to state that, in the first session of that body, closed not long since, they have fairly and honourably responded to the calls inevitably made upon them. Should no unforeseen calamity occur, should we be favoured with tolerable seasons, we ought to avoid making aay further addition to the public debt. It is true that in this session, authority has been given for contracting a new loan; but the proceeds will be applicable solely to the extinction of existing debts, and the Act has been accompanied by another for the creation of a sinking fund, providing for the liquidation of the whole colonial debt.

The legislation of the year 1863 was not of a character to call for any special notice in this Report.

It will be seen from the reports of the Civil Commissioners of the several divisions that in almost all parts of the Colony the seasons proved extraordinarily propitious for agricultural and farming operations, and that there was consequently an abundant supply of food of every description. It is indeed beyond question that little direct pecuniary benefit has thus accrued to the farmers. In preceding years they had been exposed to ruinous losses of crops and stock from continued and excessive drought. In 1863 the crops were so abundant that the prices realized would not in some cases repay the cost of bringing them to a market.

It is, nevertheless, a cause for great thankfulness that the poorer classes are no longer struggling against a scarcity of the common necessaries of life, and that an appreciable diminution of crime is the result of their improved condition. Under the influence of the general distress cattle stealing and sheep stealing increased to an alarming extent in the eastern districts, and the farmers represented the inadequacy of the punishments established by law for checking offences to the commission of which the temptations were almost irresistible. At the present moment the appearance of the Natives affords every indication of comfort and plenty.

I am also happy to have it in my power to state, in connection with the agricultural interests of the Colony, that there is one important tribe of Natives—the Fingoes—who are making rapid advances, and bid fair in a comparatively short term to assume a conspicuous position among the producing classes. It has been the policy of the Government of late years to encourage this tribe, among whom the feudal influence of the chiefs has much diminished, to become individually the proprietors of small tracts of land, and thus to acquire secure personal titles to the fruits of their industry. They have

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

exhibited a very clear appreciation of the advantages thus held out to them. They are habitually industrious and frugal, and have already in many instances become the possessors of numerous flocks and herds. Some have purchased considerable farms, and are pushing their undertakings with much energy. Such examples must before very long operate powerfully on the other tribes around; and I can conceive no better security for the preservation of tranquillity and the general advancement of all classes than this increasing appreciation of the value of law and order, and the direct interest which all must acquire in the maintenance of that rule which they see to be so beneficial to them.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P. (Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.
&c. &c. &c.

NATAL.

NATAL.

No. 13.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor MACLEAN to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 56.) Government House, Natal,
26th April 1865.

SIR, (Received 20th June 1865.)

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Blue Book for 1863, which, as they refer to a period prior to my assumption of this Government, I have not accompanied by the usual statements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN MACLEAN,
Lieutenant Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

LAGOS.

LAGOS.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor FREEMAN to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

No. 38. Government House, Lagos,
July 4, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Settlement for the year 1863.

The recent establishment of British rule in Lagos, the difficulties which had to be overcome, the small amount of aid granted by the Imperial Treasury, the depressed state of trade, owing to the wars in the interior, will be sufficient excuse for my examining considerably in detail the Statistics that the Blue Book contains, and pointing out the drawbacks which have to a certain extent retarded its progress, and dwelling upon the future prospects of this the most promising of the British Settlements on the West Coast of Africa.

I will commence by taking seriatim the different subjects of which the Blue Book treats, and make my observations on such as I may deem advisable.

Taxes, Duties, and other Sources of Revenue.

The system of taxation has of necessity been based on the simplest possible plan, being in fact restricted to Customs dues on the Imports. The change from Native to British rule was very sudden; and British law, however mildly and considerately administered, struck a deathblow at many of the habits, customs, and prejudices of the inhabitants of Lagos.

It required all the force and authority of this Government to abolish Slavery, and bring the natives under the control of the Law Courts and Police, without provoking serious opposition, and it therefore behoved us to avoid every unnecessary cause of irritation. For this reason I strictly avoided anything like direct taxation, or any system which

would press immediately upon the Natives. I therefore depended, for nearly the whole Revenue, upon Import Dues, to the great discontent of the mercantile community, who would not or could not see that the Duty would be ultimately paid by the consumer. The Duties might have been doubled or trebled without any inconvenience to trade, had the roads been open into the interior, as Porto Novo can never compete with Lagos in the internal trade of Youraba. The traders import their rum (from which the greater part of our Duties are raised) by the imperial gallon, and resell it by the old wine gallon measure, and the difference between the two (20 per cent.) is already a large profit.

Had the Import Duties in Lagos been fixed at the same rate as those of Sierra Leone, we should have raised on wines and spirits alone ten thousand pounds more than we actually received during the last year; and our total receipts, all things included, would probably have been close upon thirty thousand pounds. I point this out more particularly, as a great outcry has been raised in England by the mercantile houses who have agents here against my system of Duties.

Respecting the other sources of Revenue of this Government the Blue Book furnishes sufficient details. I nevertheless enclose a statement showing the amount which I had calculated to raise from various sources according to my estimate for the year 1863, and also the amount actually received, and an explanation of the causes which have led to the increase or deficit.

Expenditure.

Enclosure No. 2. is a statement of the Expenditure as originally estimated and that actually made, showing the causes of increase or decrease under each separate heading. This Return sufficiently explains itself, and it is therefore unnecessary to dwell upon it, except in so far as to point out the increase owing to the raising of the armed Haussa police entails a heavy expense on this Government. This expense is due to a great extent to the inadequacy of the military force stationed here.

Very little progress has been made in erecting the Public Buildings, owing to want of funds and other causes. A Court-house is half built, and a small Custom-house completed. Much expense has been incurred in road-making, the sums paid being spent partly in compensation to persons who have had their premises encroached on in the widening of the streets, and partly in the endeavour to make hard roads in the place of the deep loose sand, which is very obstructive to traffic in the dry season, and washes away in gullies during the heavy rains. But a mere trifle only of the work required has been as yet attempted.

Roads must be made, swamps filled up, the river bank properly staked and supported, to prevent its being washed away during the freshes. A good prison must be commenced without delay, as the present one is falling down, and it is difficult to guard against the prisoners escaping. An hospital must be erected, and a powder magazine built; and eventually we shall need some barracks for the Police, as well as some buildings at Badagry and Palma.

Were peace to be re-established in the interior, trade would immediately take such an extension, and our finances proportionally increase, that these works could be rapidly proceeded with. Unfortunately, however, I fear that peace is as far off as ever, and will not be brought about without the intervention of the British Government.

A fair comparison cannot be made between the Revenue of 1862 and that of 1863, for the former was received for the latter half of the year only, and was based upon a system of lower taxation.

Much inconvenience was experienced by the Government in legislation, through the want of a legal officer to draw out the Ordinances in proper form. From this defect it has resulted that on many matters there are two or even three Ordinances, each correcting the preceding one, and there are also others which have been disallowed by the Imperial Government. I would therefore suggest that it would perhaps be advisable to do away with all the repeated ordinances, and re-arrange and number again those that have received Her Majesty's gracious approval.

No calculation has been made in the Blue Book of the population of the territory, as there are no official data to go upon. I think, however, the following is not very far out:—

Lagos - - - - - - - -	40,000
Badagry - - - - - - - -	5,000
Villages between Lagos and Badagry - -	3,000
Palma District - - - - - - -	2,000
Villages between Lagos and Palma - -	2,000

LAGOS.

This calculation is rather under than above the mark, and does not include the inhabitants of Okeodan and Addo.

Nothing has as yet been undertaken by the Government in the way of education, owing to the want of necessary funds. It would, however, be productive of great benefit to the population if an industrial school could be established where the children would be taught useful trades.

The total value of the Imports and Exports during the latter six months of the year 1862, and the whole of the year 1863, were as follows:—

	1862.	1863.
Imports -	£77,933	- - - £171,138
Exports - -	61,932	- - - 158,341

which would show an increase for the whole year of about 20,000*l.* Imports and 35,000*l.* Exports.

The war between the Egbas and Ibadans has greatly checked the trade of Lagos. The latter people (Ibadans) are unable to come to Lagos in consequence of the Egbar war chiefs not allowing the roads to be opened, as they say,—if trade recommences, half the army will leave the camp and return to peaceful occupations. This closing of the roads produced a greater effect on our Export last year than on our Imports, as the Egbas allowed imported goods to be carried up to Abeokuta, but did not permit the native produce purchased with them to be exported. Thus the merchants of Abeokuta have now a large amount of property which they cannot send out of the country, and which is rapidly deteriorating.

A slight impetus has been given to agriculture by the stoppage of trade and the closing of the roads into the interior. Many small traders have taken to farming; and the greater part of the yams, cassada, Indian corn, &c. consumed at Lagos is now grown on the Lagos farms, whereas formerly nearly all came from Abeokuta and Porto Novo.

A few grants have been made to purchasers of unoccupied land, but the majority of those issued have been to persons possessing land by grant from King Docemo before the cession of Lagos to the British Crown.

With regard to those holders whose only claim to their land is by right of occupation, I consider that a system of quit-rents might be adopted. On this subject, however, I shall treat in a separate Despatch.

In conclusion, I may observe that the contents of the Blue Book show that Lagos possesses great advantages and resources which must ere long render it by far the most important European Settlement on the West Coast of Africa. In spite of the desolating wars now raging, and notwithstanding the competition of Porto Novo, where every effort is being made to take away our trade,—in spite of the merchants being disheartened by the stagnation of trade, and a feeling, of which they cannot divest themselves, that Her Majesty's Government cares little for the Settlement, and will not give it that support which was expected when the cession of the territory was obtained,—still Lagos is advancing, and furnishing sufficient Revenue to cover the actual expenses of the Government. It cannot be expected that it should as yet be able to provide public buildings, military protection, &c., though these expenses cannot but be incurred, and some means must therefore be found to provide for the former, while the latter we demand from Her Majesty's Government. But before many years elapse the Settlement of Lagos must form the outlet for the riches of the Soudan; and that it will then prosper greatly has never been denied, even by its strongest opponents.

Encl. 1. in No. 14.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. S. FREEMAN.

Enclosure 1. in No. 14.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the REVENUE estimated and raised for the year 1863.

Customs.

Estimated - - - -	£	15,050	0 0
Raised - - - -		14,289	19 4
Deficit - - -		760	0 8

Difference owing to the depression of trade consequent on the continuance of the wars in the interior.

Land Sales.

Estimated	£	500	0 0
Raised		292	17 5
Deficit		207	2 7

Depressed trade restrained purchases.

Land Revenue.

Estimated	£	100	0 0
Raised:—			
Seal on grants		114	0 0
Gain		14	0 0

Same observation as that of land sales regarding rents.

Rents, exclusive of Land.

Liberated African Dept., estimated	£	15	0 0
Raised		22	12 0
Gain		7	12 0

Postage.

Estimated	£	50	0 0
Raised		114	4 8
Gain		64	4 8

Licences.

Auctioneers', estimated	£	30	0 0
Auctioneers' £ 45			
Marriage 10			
—— Raised		55	0 0
Gain		25	0 0

Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court.

Estimated:					
Police Court	£	150	0	0	
Commercial Tribunal		100	0	0	
Slave Court		50	0	0	
					300 0 0
Raised:					
Police Court		104	4	5½	
Slave Court		107	5	4½	
Commercial Tribunal		204	5	9	
Chief Magistrate's Court		55	16	2½	
Fines		0	15	0	
					472 6 9½
Gain	£				172 6 9½

Fees of Office.

Estimated:—			
Secretary's office	£	40	0 0
Raised		55	19 2
Gain		15	19 2

Miscellaneous Receipts.

Not estimated	£	578	14 0
Raised		392	13 10
Gain		186	0 2

LAGOS.

Encl. 2. in No. 14.

Enclosure 2. in No. 14.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the EXPENDITURE estimated, and the AMOUNT actually expended, during the year 1863.

His Excellency the Governor.

Estimated, 1,040*l.* 18*s.*—Only entered as paid, 527*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*
Because the salary of Governor, 500*l.*, does not pass through the Accountant's hand.

Colonial Secretary.

Estimated, 1,164*l.*—Expenditure, 863*l.* 2*s.*
Difference in consequence of the Colonial Secretary having drawn his half-pay on leave in England, which appears in the Agents General's accounts.

Surveyor's Department.

Estimated, 595*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*—Expenditure, 584*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*

Customs Department.

Estimated, 1,321*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*—Expenditure, 818*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*
Saving caused by non-employment of landing waiters and clerk at Palma, messenger and clerk at Badagry, and boatmen at Lagos, and the pay of some lower officials not having been raised to full amount as on probation.

Medical.

Estimated, 465*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*—Expenditure, 307*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*
Difference owing to the account for medicines appearing in Colonial Agent's accounts.

Harbour-master's Department.

Estimated, 701*l.* 12*s.*—Expenditure, 438*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*
Saving by not having had full-paid Harbour-master for good part of year. Boat only paid for in 1864. Full number of kroomen not employed.

Post Office.

Estimated, 100*l.*—Expenditure, 101*l.* 19*s.*

Auditor.

Not estimated.—Expenditure, 100*l.*

Liberated African Department.

Estimated, 600*l.*—Expenditure, 394*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*
Less persons maintained.

Judicial.

Estimated, 3,739*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*—Expenditure, 4,043*l.*
A saving made on half salary of Chief Magistrate for nine months, but extra expenditure caused by raising armed Haussa police.

Gaol.

Estimated, 292*l.*—Expenditure, 270*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*
Gaoler and under gaoler did not receive full pay estimated till near close of year.

Ecclesiastical.

Estimated, 47*l.*—Expenditure, 26*l.*
Gravediggers pay not up to estimate, and assistants not appointed at beginning of year.

Pensions, Retired Allowances, and Gratuities.

Estimated, 1,280*l.*—Expenditure, 866*l.*
Saving in consequence of ex-king Docemo receiving only 1,000*l.* per annum instead of 1,080*l.*, and his pension having been stopped for a time.

Police and Gaols, ex. of Establishments.

Estimated, 824*l.* 12*s.*—Expenditure, 1,051*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*
Increased number of prisoners and clothing for Haussa police.

Administration of Justice, ex. of Establishments.

Estimated, 43*l.*—Expenditure, 25*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*
Less work than expected.

Rent.

Estimated, 252*l.*—Expenditure, 305*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*
Rent allowed to officers for whom it was not originally estimated.

Hospitals, ex. of Establishments.

Estimated, 200*l.*—Expenditure, 14*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*
Bedding and other things not required.

Liberated African Department, ex. of Establishments.

Not estimated.—Expenditure, 708*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*
Subsistence and redemption of runaway slaves from neighbouring countries, &c.

Miscellaneous Services.

Estimated, 250*l.*—Expenditure, 490*l.* 7*s.* 4½*d.*
Expenses of printing, and powder hulk, and opening up River Addo, and allowance to the late Lieut. Dolben, and compensation paid to Haussa police wounded at Epé.

Transport Service.

Not estimated.—Expenditure, 489*l.* 13*s.*
Canoe hire; travelling expenses of officials; passages of Krooboys to and from their country; suppressing slave traffic on lagoons; and blockading the Abeokuta River.

Aborigines.

Estimated, 370*l.*—Expenditure, 565*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*
Increased stipend to Badagry chiefs, and increased amount in maintenance, missions, and presents.

Works and Buildings.

Estimated, 5,428*l.* 18*s.*—Expenditure, 1,946*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*
Saving Government House, public wells about town; court house not finished, but partially erected.

Roads, Streets, and Bridges.

Estimated, 560*l.*—Expenditure, 869*l.* 13*s.* 9½*d.*
Houses pulled down to make roads, and compensation paid for them, and ground taken.

Conveyance of Mails.

Estimated, 22*l.* 5*s.*—Expenditure, 19*l.* 10*s.*

Secret Service.

No Estimate.—Expenditure, 5*l.*

St. Helena.

No. 15.

ST. HELENA.

No. 15.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir Charles Elliot, K.C.B., to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.

(No 35.)

My Lord Duke, St. Helena, May 22, 1864.

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1863.

2. Since my recent arrival in this island it has been my duty to report fully to your Grace on the dilapidated condition of the public and private buildings in Jamestown owing to the devastation of the white ant, and also upon the situation of the island considered as an important outpost of the empire. On the present occasion therefore I have only to remark that the returns now submitted nearly correspond with those forwarded in previous years, making some allowance for the obstructions to trade attributable to the civil war in North America.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G,
&c. &c. &c.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 16.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Honourable Sir JOHN YOUNG, Bart., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

*Summary for the last 10 years printed.

(No. 95.) Government House, Sydney,
17 November 1864.

SIR,

1. I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Statistical Register* of New South Wales for the year 1863.

2. Full and accurate information on all points will be found arranged under the various heads.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M. P. (Signed) JOHN YOUNG.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 16.

Enclosure No. 16.

STATISTICAL VIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF NEW SOUTH WALES FROM THE YEAR 1854 TO 1863 INCLUSIVE.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.	Schools. Number of Scholars.	for Commitments Trial.	Convictions.	Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	Number of Acres under Crop.	Live Stock. Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Coal raised. Quantity.	Coal raised. Value.	Land Sales. Quantity.	Land Sales. Amount realized.	Year.
																tons.	£	acres.	£	
1854	251,315	9,663	2,761	4,511	413	25,953	—	637	140	146	131,857	148,851	1,576,750	8,144,119	63,255	116,642	119,380	83,396	319,533	1854
1855	277,579	10,344	2,765	4,022	476	27,243	—	526	147	255	171,100¼	158,159	1,858,407	8,602,499	68,091	137,076	89,082	127,952	270,636	1855
1856	[a]286,873	10,097	2,778	4,203	565	29,426	—	461	154	314	186,033¾	168,929	2,023,418	7,736,323	105,998	189,960	117,906	167,753	245,555	1856
1857	305,487	12,501	2,902	4,846	550	29,236	—	395	157	284	184,513½	180,053	2,148,664	8,139,162	109,166	210,434	148,158	145,102	210,333	1857
1858	342,062	13,802	2,992	5,883	653	33,236	780	415	169	295	223,295¼	200,713	2,110,604	7,581,762	92,843	216,397	162,162	169,214	240,633	1858
1859	[b]336,572	14,415	3,295	5,642	739	32,840	753	406	177	549	247,542¾	214,684	2,190,976	5,162,671	119,701	308,213	204,371	135,167	252,627	1859
1860	348,546	14,233	2,945	6,562	798	34,767	685	405	193	745	260,798	251,497	2,408,586	6,119,163	180,662	368,862	226,493	109,216	155,316	1860
1861	358,278	14,681	3,222	5,343	849	37,874	820	437	184	788	297,575	233,220	2,271,923	5,615,054	146,091	342,067	218,820	189,936	222,594	1861
1862	367,495	15,434	3,326	6,524	925	42,211	879	514	181	859	302,138½	273,389	2,620,383	6,145,651	125,541	476,522	305,234	[c]67,292	216,988	1862
1863	378,934	15,679	3,314	6,653	976	46,810	887	497	180	1,768	307,035	262,554	2,032,522	7,790,969	135,899	433,889	236,230	[c]92,016	128,211	1863

Year.	Shipping. Inwards. Number of Vessels.	Shipping. Inwards. Tonnage.	Shipping. Outwards. Number of Vessels.	Shipping. Outwards. Tonnage.	Exports, the Produce of the Colony. Wool. Quantity.	Wool. Value.	Tallow. Quantity.	Tallow. Value.	Oil, &c., Value.	Gold. Quantity.	Gold. Value.	Coal. Quantity.	Coal. Value.	Value of Total Imports.	Value of Total Exports.	Revenue. General.	Revenue. Loans.	Expenditure. Ordinary.	Expenditure. Loans.	Year.
					lbs.	£	cwt.	£	£	ozs.	£	tons.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1854	1,058	376,927	1,112	409,489	18,976,300	1,181,956	82,120	164,256	28,155	237,910	773,209	59,297	101,752	5,981,063	4,050,126	1,004,467	234,680	966,569	170,000	1854
1855	1,152	353,323	1,185	362,482	17,671,684	1,078,017	57,325	123,255	20,770	64,384	209,250	61,484	58,893	4,668,519	2,884,130	800,989	859,721	886,724	788,506	1855
1856	1,143	321,679	1,219	336,113	19,200,341	1,303,070	77,314	137,202	25,355	42,463	138,007	84,086	65,730	5,460,971	3,430,880	1,130,014	856,539	1,146,468	688,666	1856
1857	1,100	351,413	1,204	377,147	17,044,201	1,275,067	37,574	82,134	32,306	253,564	983,850	96,457	45,960	6,720,408	4,011,952	1,185,562	345,575	1,104,995	438,333	1857
1858	1,141	348,984	1,254	366,825	13,553,835	1,126,486	29,085	53,186	1,450	254,907	994,960	115,649	89,200	6,059,366	4,186,277	1,379,675	76,776	1,209,796	360,770	1858
1859	1,250	363,121	1,299	387,015	16,988,016	1,458,005	17,376	37,275	532	435,995	1,698,078	173,935	132,984	6,597,053	4,768,049	1,522,668	816,822	1,425,028	433,138	1859
1860	1,424	427,835	1,438	431,484	12,809,362	1,123,699	13,647	28,794	136	483,012	1,876,049	233,877	183,761	7,519,285	5,072,020	1,319,779	560,729	1,321,724	726,231	1860
1861	1,327	366,236	1,391	379,460	12,745,891	1,396,426	60,638	60,816	—	488,293	1,890,908	207,780	160,965	6,391,555	5,594,839	1,448,610	394,457	1,540,005	433,224	1861
1862	1,493	454,837	1,568	467,356	13,482,139	1,283,818	71,281	104,030	—	699,566	2,715,037	308,782	245,422	9,334,645	7,102,562	1,628,885	644,285	1,608,810	526,708	1862
1863	1,494	479,827	1,603	511,373	14,791,849	1,262,274	17,709	31,221	—	605,722	2,361,949	298,038	220,181	8,319,576	6,936,839	1,550,047	649,116	2,064,299	537,795	1863

[a] The Census was taken in 1821, 2, 3, 5, 8, 33, 6; population as above.
2nd March, 1841, population 130,856
2nd March, 1846, „ 189,609
1st March, 1851, „ 187,243
1st March, 1856, „ 266,189
1st March, 1861, „ 350,860

[b] The reduction in the Year 1859 was caused by the separation of Queensland from New South Wales.

[c] Exclusive of lands conditionally sold under the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861."
Price of land in 1825, 7*s.* 6*d* to 10*s.* per acre.
The minimum price of land was 5*s.* per acre from 1832 to 1840; 12*s.* per acre, 1840-2. (20*s.* in Port Philip, in 1841.)
20*s.* per acre from 1843 to present time.
Number of acres alienated to the end of 1863,—7,778,277 acres.
Number of unalienated, about - - 93,973,743 acres.

QUEENSLAND.

No. 17.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. F. Bowen, G. C. M. G., to the Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, M.P.

(No. 30.) Government House, Brisbane, Queensland,

Sir, July 6, 1864.

1. I have the honour to transmit herewith six copies of the "Statistical Register "or Blue Book of the Colony of Queensland for the year ending the 31st December, "1863." Prefixed is the annual Report of the Registrar General.

2. I solicit attention in particular to the tabular statements of this Report, exhibiting "the annual increase per cent. in the years 1861, 1862, and 1863, and the "total increase per cent. in the triennial period;" and thus proving the rapid but solid progress of this Colony. It will be seen that, during the last three years, our population has been more than doubled, having increased by 113·38 per cent., while our revenue has increased by 118·84 per cent.; and our trade (including imports and exports), our shipping, and the other chief elements of material prosperity, have advanced in nearly similar proportions. It is satisfactory to observe that the public provision for the education of the people keeps better pace with its rapid increase in numbers than is usual in very young communities. During the above-mentioned triennial period, the schools have increased by 72·58, and the scholars attending them by 94·86 per cent.

3. In the last three years pastoral occupation has advanced to the North and West over an additional space of between five and six hundred miles in distance; while new ports have been opened, and new townships founded along the coast at Broad Sound, at Mackay, on the Pioneer River, at Port Denison, and at Rockingham Bay, settlement has been pushed on inland to the banks of the rivers Flinders and Lynd flowing into the Gulf of Carpentaria, more than nine hundred miles north, and to the banks of the river Paroo, more than seven hundred miles west, by the nearest road, from the seat of Government at Brisbane. A new settlement will be formed immediately at Cape York, which is further from Brisbane than Gibraltar is from London; and it is fully expected that before another year shall have passed away there will be stations at the head of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

4. The wise and temperate legislation of the Queensland Parliament has contributed much to the development and consolidation of the welfare which this Colony, under the blessing of Providence, enjoys.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) G. F. BOWEN.
Edward Cardwell, M. P.

Registrar-General's Report on the Statistical Register for 1863.

To the Honourable Robert George Wyndham Herbert, Esq., Colonial Secretary.

Sir, Registrar-General's Office, Brisbane, 2nd June, 1864.

I have the honor to forward to you "The Statistical Register or Blue Book of the Colony of Queensland, for the Year ending the 31st December 1863," and I regret that circumstances, over which I have had no control, have prevented its earlier publication.

To my usual remarks on the annual progress of the Colony, I have this year added a Statistical Summary, arranged in a tabulated form, for each year of its separate existence, and have thus been able to supply as much, or even a larger amount of information than on former occasions, in a more condensed and convenient shape.

Parliament.

The fifth session of the first Parliament of Queensland was opened by his Excellency the Governor in person, on the 21st April 1863, and lasted until the 20th May following, when it was prorogued by proclamation, the Legislative Assembly being dissolved by proclamation, dated the 22nd of the same month. Five public bills (*vide*

QUEENS LAND.

Table VI.*) were originated in the Legislative Council, and sixteen in the Legislative Assembly, but none were passed in consequence of the prorogation.

The first session of the second Parliament was opened by his Excellency the Governor in person, on the 21st July 1863, and continued until the 22nd September 1863.

During this Session, three bills were originated in the Legislative Council and twenty-seven in the Legislative Assembly (*vide* Table VII.); of these, twenty-five passed both Houses and received His Excellency's assent; two Private bills were also introduced upon Petition, passed, and assented to.

Municipalities.

Tables Nos. LXXI. and LXXII. show the existence of eight municipalities in the year 1863, being an addition of one to the former number.

Several large and important public works have been undertaken by the Corporation of Brisbane. The first in utility and importance is the construction of Waterworks for the supply of the city; this work is estimated to cost 50,000*l.*, which sum does not include the cost of distribution. A bridge across the River Brisbane is also on the eve of being commenced, at an estimated cost of 60,000*l.*; and the building of a Town Hall, estimated to cost 20,000*l.*, is rapidly advancing.

Population.

The census taken on the 1st January 1864 shows a large and rapid increase of the white population; its number was on that day 61,640† and consisted of 37,579 males, and 24,061 females. On the occasion of the last census, taken on the 8th April 1861, the population was found to be 30,059. It follows, therefore, that in the intervening period of two years and nine months, the population has increased at the rate of 105·06 per cent. The result of the above census shows how strongly the current of overland emigration has set from the Southern Australian Colonies towards Queensland, for our population, as per census, exceeds the estimate founded on the registration of births and deaths, and on the customs returns of foreign arrivals by sea, by no less than 1,955 persons, whose presence, in the absence of any other source, must be referred to overland immigration.

POPULATION of QUEENSLAND on the 31st December 1863.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Excess of births over deaths during 1st quarter -	32	117	149
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during 1st quarter - - - - - - -	1,893	1,213	3,106
Increase during 1st quarter - - -	1,925	1,330	3,255
Excess of births over deaths during 2d quarter - -	91	122	213
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during 2d quarter - - - - - - - -	1,788	991	2,779
Increase during six months - - -	3,804	2,443	6,247
Excess of births over deaths during 3d quarter - - -	94	202	296
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during 3d quarter - - - - - - - -	3,585	2,259	5,844
Increase during nine months - - -	7,483	4,904	12,387
Excess of births over deaths during 4th quarter - - -	79	209	288
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration during 4th quarter - - - - - - - -	1,268	692	1,960
Total increase during 1863 - - -	8,830	5,805	14,635
Estimated population on the 31st December 1862 -	27,186	17,891	45,077
Estimated population on the 31st December 1863 -	36,016	23,696	59,712
Population on 31st December, 1863, as per Census -	37,579	24,061	61,640
Difference between Census and estimated Population -	1,563	365	1,928

* The Tables referred to in this Report are not printed.

† These numbers include a few returns from the confines of the Colony, received too late to be included in the tabular Census returns.

Assuming that the difference above shown is attributable to overland immigration of which no annual account can be taken, on a frontier extending over nearly one thousand miles, and dividing it equally over the period which has elapsed since the taking of the last census, the population on the 31st December, 1862, may be estimated to have been 46,300 souls, viz., 28,177 males, and 18,123 females, and the numerical increase during the past year to have been 15,340, assignable to the following sources:—

Excess of births over deaths - - - -	946
Excess of arrivals over departures by sea - - -	13,689
Excess of arrivals over departures by land - - -	705
Total increase - - - - -	15,340

Of the above arrivals by sea, the Immigration Returns show 11,727 to have arrived from Europe; the remaining 1,962 have, therefore, landed from the neighbouring colonies. The centesimal increase in the population during the past year has been unusually large, having reached the high ratio of 33·13 per cent.; the following tables, however, show the natural increase to have been smaller than usual:

TABLE showing the NUMBER of DEATHS in the Years 1862 and 1863, also the PROPORTION of FEMALES to MALES who died in each Year.

District.	1862.			1863.			Total Increase in the latter Year.	Increase per Cent. in the latter Year.	Number of Deaths of Females to every 100 Deaths of Males in 1862.	Number of Deaths of Females to every 100 Deaths of Males in 1863.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.				
Brisbane - -	150	126	276	273	230	503	227	82·25	84·00	84·25
Condamine* -	19	9	28	30	10	40	12	42·86	47·37	33·33
Dalby - -	27	12	39	26	16	42	3	7·69	44·44	61·54
Drayton - -	38	21	59	53	29	82	23	38·98	55·26	54·72
Gayndah† - -	35	9	44	33	9	42	–2	–4·76	25·71	27·27
Ipswich - -	75	42	117	86	60	146	29	24·79	56·00	69·77
Kennedy - -	8	2	10	16	3	19	9	90·00	25·00	18·75
Leichhardt‡ - -	90	34	124	170	76	246	122	98·39	37·77	44·71
Port Curtis -	3	2	5	9	2	11	6	120·00	66·66	22·22
Taroom - -	18	6	24	18	8	26	2	8·33	33·33	44·44
Warwick - -	30	10	40	48	14	62	22	55·00	33·33	29·17
Wide Bay - -	23	8	31	30	20	56	25	80·65	34·78	44·12
Total -	516	281	797	798	477	1,275	478	59·97	54·44	59·77

* Including also the three new registration districts Goondiwindi, Mount Abundance, and Surat. † Including also Nanango.
‡ Including Banana, Broad Sound, Peak Downs, Princhester, Rockhampton, and Springsure.

The following tables compare the births of the two years 1862 and 1863, and the births with the deaths of the year 1863. An unusual number of females have been born during the latter year.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of BIRTHS in the Years 1862 and 1863, also the Proportion of Females to Males born in each Year.

District.	1862.			1863.			Total Increase in the latter Year.	Increase per Cent. in the latter Year.	Females born to every 100 Males born in 1862.	Females born to every 100 Males born in 1860.
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.				
Brisbane - - -	300	286	586	383	409	792	206	35·15	95·33	106·79
Condamine* - - -	26	23	49	31	40	71	22	44·44	88·46	129·03
Dalby - - -	39	32	71	51	39	90	19	26·76	82·06	76·47
Drayton - - -	72	88	160	93	92	185	25	15·63	122·22	98.92
Gayndah† - - -	52	28	80	44	50	94	14	17·50	53·92	113·64
Ipswich - - -	183	127	310	205	191	396	86	27·74	69·39	93·17
Kennedy - -	8	1	9	11	7	18	9	100·00	12·50	63·64
Leichhardt‡ - -	73	60	133	114	129	243	110	82·71	82·19	113·16
Port Curtis - -	12	16	28	9	12	21	–7	–33·33	133·33	133·33
Taroom - - -	11	21	32	16	13	29	–3	–10·34	190·91	81·25
Warwick - - -	75	82	157	80	75	155	–2	–1·29	109·33	93·75
Wide Bay - -	52	35	87	57	70	127	40	45·98	67·31	122·81
Total -	903	799	1,702	1,094	1,127	2,221	519	30·49	88·48	103·02

* Including also the three new registration districts Goondiwindi, Mount Abundance, and Surat. † Including also Nanango.
‡ Including Banana, Broad Sound, Peak Downs, Princhester, Rockhampton, and Springsure.

TABLE comparing the DEATHS of the Year 1863 with the BIRTHS of the same Year.

District.	Deaths in 1863.	Births in 1863.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	Centesimal Increase of Births in 1863 over those in 1862.	Centesimal Increase of Deaths in 1863 over those in 1862.	Deaths have centesimally increased faster than Births.
Brisbane	503	792	289	35·15	82·25	47·10
Dalby	42	90	48	26·76	7·69	—19·07
Drayton	82	185	103	15·63	38·98	23·35
Ipswich	146	396	250	27·74	24·79	—2·95
Kennedy	19	18	–1	100·00	90·00	—10·00
Port Curtis	11	21	10	—33·33	120·00	153·33
Taroom	26	29	3	—10·34	8·33	18·67
Warwick	62	155	93	—1·29	55·00	56·29
Wide Bay	56	127	71	45·98	80·65	34·67
Condamine	11	34	23			
Goondiwindi	11	12	1			
Mount Abundance	7 } 40*	13 } 71	5 } 31	44·44	42·86	—1·58
Surat	11	12	1			
Banana	11	10	1			
Broad Sound	7	5	0			
Peak Downs	7	4	--3			
Princhester	2 } 246*	1 } 243	--1 } –3	82·71	98·39	16·68
Rockhampton	214	219	5			
Springsure	9	4	--5			
Gayndah	37	80	43			
Nanango	5 } 42*	14 } 94	9 } 52	17·50	4·76	—22·26
	1,275	2,221	946	30·49	59·97	29·48

* These registration districts are grouped to afford the means of comparing the numbers of the two years 1862, 1863.

It is most unsatisfactory to find, by reference to the following table, that the deaths of children have increased very largely, and out of all proportion either to the population or the total mortality of the year 1863.

The centesimal increase of the population between the 31st December 1862 and the 31st December 1863 is 33·13, but the centesimal increase in the deaths of children under five years of age during that period is no less than 73·48—more than twice as great. I considered it right, on a former occasion, to draw attention to our large infantine mortality; much more is it necessary to refer to it at present.

The total deaths of the year 1862 numbered 797, of which 362 were of children below the age of five years, and 296 of children below the age of two years. In the year 1863, the total number of deaths was 1,275, being an increase at the rate of 59·97 per cent.; far greater, be it observed, than the centesimal increase in the population. Of these deaths 628 were of children below five years of age, and 488 of children below the age of two years; that is to say, that out of every hundred deaths in 1863, 38¼ (very nearly) were of children under two years of age, and 49¼ of children below five years of age. This is a bad state of affairs, and deserves the most serious consideration. That it is in our power to a great extent to check this sad waste of human life admits, I think, of little doubt; but this is not the place to dwell on the subject, neither does it appertain to my office to do so. My duty is simply to make known the fact, and to leave it to others better qualified to suggest the remedy. A great and progressive improvement will doubtless take place as our population becomes more settled, as sanitary regulations are more generally introduced, and as the character of our semi-tropical climate becomes better understood.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of CHILDREN who have died in each of the Years 1862 and 1863.

District.	1862.			1863.			Increase in the Deaths of Children below Two Years of age.	Increase in the Deaths of Children Two and under Five Years of age.	Total Increase in the Deaths of Children below Five Years of age.
	Below Two Years.	Two and under Five Years.	Total below Five Years.	Below Two Years.	Two and under Five Years.	Total below Five Years.			
Brisbane	126	37	163	232	51	283	106	14	120
Dalby	18	2	20	17	2	19	1	—	1
Drayton	15	3	18	26	13	39	11	10	21
Ipswich	42	5	47	62	18	80	20	13	33
Kennedy	4	2	6	4	2	6	—	—	—
Port Curtis	1	—	1	2	2	4	1	2	3
Taroom	3	—	3	9	1	10	6	1	7
Warwick	11	4	15	18	7	25	7	3	10
Wide Bay	15	2	17	20	8	28	5	6	11
Condamine, Goondiwindi, Mount Abundance, and Surat	10	2	12	6	3	9	4	1	3
Banana, Broad Sound, Peak Downs, Princhester, Rockhampton, and Springsure	40	6	46	80	31	111	40	25	65
Gayndah and Nanango	11	3	14	12	2	14	1	1	—
Total	296	66	362	488	140	628	192	74	266

TABLE showing the NUMBER of MARRIAGES celebrated in each of the Years 1862 and 1863.

District and Year.	Church of England.	Church of Rome.	Presbyterian.	Wesleyan Methodist.	Primitive Methodist.	United Methodist Free Churches.	Congregational.	Baptist.	Lutheran.	Registration Act.	Total 1862.	Total 1863.
Brisbane 1862	56	38	42	24	—	—	31	10	20	20	241	—
Brisbane 1863	70	70	82	22	5	7	23	20	22	31	—	352
Condamine 1862	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Condamine 1863*	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	16
Dalby 1862	8	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Dalby 1863	16	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	26
Drayton 1862	23	9	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	47	—
Drayton 1863	7	9	—	4	—	—	12	—	6	—	—	38
Gayndah 1862	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	7	19	—
Gayndah 1863†	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	13	—	2	—	19
Ipswich 1862	15	29	14	16	—	—	13	2	3	6	98	—
Ipswich 1863	20	33	4	17	—	—	1	—	3	11	—	89
Kennedy 1862	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Kennedy 1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	13
Maryborough 1862	12	6	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	11	39	—
Maryborough 1862	7	15	14	—	—	—	—	7	—	11	—	54
Port Curtis 1862	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	11	—
Port Curtis 1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Rockhampton 1862	11	14	22	—	—	—	17	—	—	9	73	—
Rockhampton 1863‡	18	24	59	—	—	—	16	—	—	8	—	125
Taroom 1862	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	—
Taroom 1863	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	7
Warwick 1862	11	4	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	23	—
Warwick 1863	10	8	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	31
Total 1862	141	105	99	41	—	—	61	31	23	69	570	—
Total 1863	153	166	171	43	5	7	52	40	31	106	—	774

* Including the marriages registered in the new districts of Goondiwindi, Mount Abundance, and Surat.
† Including Nanango.
‡ Including Banana, Broad Sound, Peak Downs, Princhester, and Springsure.

Immigration.

The tables referring to this most important subject, and numbered XXIII. to XXIX. inclusive, are very carefully prepared, and show an immigration from Europe of 11,727 souls; of this number 1,143 arrived in four ships chartered by the Commissioners at

QUEENSLAND.

an average price of 14*l.* 8*s.* 10½*d.* per statute adult, and the remaining 10,584 in 26 private ships.

In the Commissioners' ships the females were in the proportion of 84·05 to each 100 males; in the private ships they were only in the proportion of 61·71 to each 100 males. To this small proportion of females must mainly be attributed the yearly increasing disparity in the numbers of the sexes. The proportion of females to each 100 males of the whole population on the 31st of December of each of the years 1859 to 1863 inclusive are respectively 66, 66, 65, 65·81, and 64·30.

The deaths during the voyage in the Commissioners' ships were in the proportion of 1·48 per cent. of the number embarked; in the private ships the proportion was 2·09 per cent.

Thirty ships bringing immigrants arrived last year, 25 discharged their living cargoes at Moreton Bay, three at Keppel Bay, one at Hervey's Bay, and one at Port Denison.

It is singular to observe how little the rate of wages during the last two years has been affected by the large introduction of immigrants, the demand seems insatiable. In addition to the requirements of the towns and settled districts, fresh labour is constantly called for by the rapid progress of pastoral occupation, which is advancing to the north and west at the rate of nearly 200 miles annually.

1863.	Arrivals.								Departures.								Excess of Arrivals over Departures.
	Brisbane.	Broad Sound.	Maryborough.	Pioneer River.	Port Curtis.	Port Denison.	Rockhampton.	Total Arrivals.	Brisbane.	Broad Sound.	Maryborough.	Pioneer River.	Port Curtis.	Port Denison.	Rockhampton.	Total Departures.	
Males above 14	7,230	4	317	–	46	455	1,640	9,692	2,244	1	40	1	3	106	535	2,930	6,762
Males under 14	1,502	–	170	–	1	69	168	1,910	103	–	8	–	–	5	22	138	1,772
Total Males	8,732	4	487	–	47	524	1,808	11,602	2,347	1	48	1	3	111	557	3,068	8,534
Females above 14	3,330	1	212	–	17	128	525	4,213	470	1	9	–	4	11	91	585	3,628
Females under 14	1,248	–	132	–	9	57	189	1,635	80	–	2	–	3	4	18	108	1,527
Total Females	4,578	1	344	–	26	185	714	5,848	550	1	11	–	7	15	109	693	5,155
Total Persons	13,310	5	831	–	73	709	2,522	17,450	2,897	2	59	1	10	126	666	3,761	13,689

Education.

Table No. LXIV.—The number of primary schools under the supervision of the Board of General Education has considerably increased, and so has the number of scholars; the return of private schools also shows an increase. The returns of the Sunday schools under the supervision of clergymen of various denominations are, I am sorry to say, in such an incomplete state that I am not in a position to publish any information of general utility. A reference to table No. XXXV. shows that out of 2,938 persons taken into custody by the police 639 could neither read nor write, 431 could read but not write, and 1,868 could both read and write; it appears, therefore, that more than 60 per cent. of all offenders or presumed offenders could both read and write. Following up this subject by a reference to the Brisbane Gaol Returns, table No. XXXI., it appears that out of 625 prisoners who passed through the Gaol in 1863, 129 could neither read nor write, 60 could read but not write, and the very large proportion of 446 could both read and write; the actual criminals therefore who have received some education are to the whole number committed to gaol in the large proportion of 71·36 per cent.; and as, on turning to the Census Returns it appears that the whole number in the colony who can read and write are only in the proportion of 62·48 per cent. to the whole population, we see that a very disproportionate share of crime exists in this Colony among the educated. The above returns also show that education is rather more general among the males than the females, for it appears that 68·15 males can read and write out of each 100 males in the Colony, while only 53·66 females out of each 100 can do the same.

Crime.

The criminal statistics, *vide* tables Nos. XXXI. to XXXV., disclose, I regret to say, a considerable increase in the number of persons tried by the Superior Courts for crimes of a serious nature; this increase is out of proportion even to the large increase of population. It is, probably, due principally to the discovery of the gold fields, and to

the fact that in a new and very thinly peopled country it is difficult for the machinery of police and justice to keep pace with the advance of the population. In 1862 the criminal returns of the Supreme Court show 23 convicted, 32 acquitted, 55 tried; in 1863 the numbers were 56 convicted, 35 acquitted, 91 tried; that is in the latter year nearly twice as many were tried and more than twice as many convicted as in the former. As some palliation, however, to this disagreeable disclosure, it may be remarked that although the number committed for trial for serious offences by the Courts of Petty Sessions is far larger than in 1862, being as 131 to 84, the number dealt with summarily by the Courts of Petty Sessions is smaller than in 1862, being as 1,940 to 2,406, and this in the face of a population that has increased at the rate of 36·36 per cent. There is a striking difference in these tables between the number committed for trial and the number actually placed on their trial, for 131 were committed but only 91 tried; of the convictions 17 were for offences against persons and 39 for offences against property. The two following tables confirm the above statements.

AMOUNT of CRIME of a serious nature during the last Five Years.

Years.	Acquitted.	Guilty.	Total tried.	Per-centage of Population tried.	Per-centage of Population guilty.
1859	22	35	57	·23	·14
1860	11	30	41	·14	·10
1861	19	24	43	·13	·07
1862	32	23	55	·12	·05
1863	35	56	91	·17	·11

TABLE comparing the NUMBER of PERSONS taken into CUSTODY and SUMMARILY CONVICTED or DISCHARGED by the several Courts of Petty Sessions in the Two Years 1862 and 1863.

	Taken into Custody.				Convicted.				Committed for Trial.	Discharged.
	Offences against Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkards and Vagrants.	Total taken into Custody,	Offences against Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkards and Vagrants.	Total convicted.		
1862	487	482	2,180	3,149	326	243	1,837	2,406	84	659
1863	432	530	1,976	2,938	268	256	1,416	1,940	131	867
Increase	—	48	—	—	—	13	—	—	47	208
Decrease	55	—	204	211	58	—	421	466	—	—

Drunkenness and vagrancy continue to supply at least two thirds of the business of the courts of Petty Sessions; and publican's licences are issued in constantly increasing numbers; during the last year they have risen in number from 193 to 253.

Banks.

The following comparative tables show a large and rapid increase in the monetary transactions of the Colony, fully keeping pace with the increase in population. Taking the last quarter of each of the years 1862 and 1863, it appears that—

Notes in circulation have increased at the rate of			23·57 per cent.
Bills in circulation	ditto	ditto	20·57 ditto.
Deposits	ditto	ditto	38·58 ditto.
Total liabilities	ditto	ditto	35·43 ditto.
Coin and bullion	ditto	ditto	23·38 ditto.
Value of landed property estimated to have increased at the rate of			35·26 ditto.
Notes and bills discounted and all other debts due to the banks have increased at the rate of			40·48 ditto.
Total assets	ditto	ditto	39·05 ditto.

TABLE comparing the aggregate LIABILITIES and ASSETS of the COLONIAL BANKING ESTABLISHMENTS at the TERMINATION of each QUARTER of the Years 1860, 1861, 1862, and 1863.

		LIABILITIES.					ASSETS.						
Quarters of the Year.	Year.	Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.	Total Liabilities.	Coin.	Bullion.	Landed Property.	Notes and Bills of other Banks.	Balances due from other Banks and Branches.	Notes and Bills discounted and all other Debts due to the Banks.	Total Assets.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
First Quarter	1860	32,734 16 6	2,419 7 7	57,161 1 5	166,574 10 6	258,889 16 0	52,677 3 1	Nil.	7,172 5 2	4,804 18 8	1,166 11 5	390,250 8 9	456,071 7 1
	1861	46,975 11 8	2,889 5 2	52 18 1	310,842 6 3	360,760 1 2	66,225 3 4	51 8 6	14,235 17 7	1,290 15 10	5,374 10 8	558.895 5 5	596,073 1 4
	1862	78,110 10 1	5,710 7 5	726 13 2	310,843 1 1	395,390 11 9	86,015 14 5	113 15 3	19,491 5 1	1,860 1 2	5,965 10 8	630,686 12 11	744,132 19 6
	1863	89,165 12 10	9,971 0 0	102,634 19 3	368,348 19 11	570,120 12 0	108,455 19 4	Nil.	27,283 12 4	3,917 3 1	2,226 7 11	789,239 8 3	931,122 10 11
Second Quarter	1860	35,744 19 11	2,596 7 10	47 17 1	182,435 4 5	220,824 9 3	58,385 2 11	39 11 5	7,946 19 0	1,694 19 11	2,844 16 1	420,138 16 4	491,050 5 8
	1861	52,143 9 2	3,451 3 7	778 10 0	267,351 16 8	323,724 19 5	71,292 1 7	43 12 6	16,363 6 10	1,672 9 8	6,901 19 2	504,818 1 4	611,091 11 1
	1862	80,773 11 5	7,284 14 11	595 11 5	314,769 17 11	403,423 15 8	90,691 5 3	Nil.	21,415 9 10	2,477 7 8	4,149 1 11	652,029 8 4	770,762 13 0
	1863	93,078 5 5	12,983 12 9	1,880 15 7	412,591 16 7	520,534 10 4	114,641 6 6	Nil.	29,197 6 9	4,248 13 11	2,334 8 8	891,873 7 11	1,042,295 3 9
Third Quarter	1860	39,963 3 5	7,920 3 3	18 7 8	236,337 5 0	284,238 19 4	61,289 13 10	86 8 1	11,996 18 3	1,289 11 11	4,730 17 11	472,537 11 4	551,931 1 4
	1861	56,773 6 3	3,617 13 0	5,024 9 1	266,700 10 9	332,115 19 1	78,869 2 2	46 1 4	16,475 6 1	1,548 4 1	4,325 4 6	590,308 7 10	691,572 6 0
	1862	79,599 11 5	18,468 15 7	941 17 11	344,542 14 3	443,552 19 2	96,166 2 4	Nil.	21,709 0 11	2,337 18 6	5,813 6 1	683,862 15 9	809,889 3 7
	1863	98,201 7 10	20,382 3 9	7,007 9 1	435,877 1 2	561,468 1 10	117,332 16 5	8 7 4	32,118 7 4	3,913 12 5	5,425 18 3	998,726 19 5	1,157,526 1 2
Fourth Quarter	1860	42,765 11 8	2,473 18 11	17 2 10	286,917 1 4	332,173 14 9	63,843 6 7	43 14 11	13,749 18 8	1,293 14 9	4,870 4 4	490,860 2 5	574,661 1 8
	1861	63,104 12 4	4,499 17 5	323 5 3	322,310 · 5 5	390,238 0 5	84,916 8 6	40 8 6	18,016 0 7	1,527 7 3	8,101 16 1	518,315 18 1	730,917 19 0
	1862	87,103 4 10	11,903 6 0	2,083 17 4	341,155 8 8	442,245 16 10	105,268 11 6	Nil.	25,538 9 8	2,286 14 1	4,107 1 10	751,678 5 10	888,879 2 11
	1863	107,634 1 10	14,351 5 10	4,189 16 5	472,765 16 0	598,941 0 1	128,632 4 1	1,253 7 6	34,542 6 1	8,649 0 2	6,894 18 1	1,055,989 5 3	1,235,961 1 2

Sale of Crown Lands ; Agricultural and Pastoral Occupation.

Information connected with the alienation of Crown Lands will be found in tables Nos. XLVI. to L., inclusive. The quantity sold during the year 1863 was 62,948 acres 1 rood 38¼ perches, being rather smaller than the quantity sold in the year 1862; the sum which it realized—viz., 108,828*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*—was, however, rather larger than the amount realized in 1862.

The total quantity of land alienated in fee by the Crown from the foundation of the Colony on the 10th December, 1859, up to the 31st December, 1863, is 213,123 acres 2 roods 14 perches.

The agricultural returns for last year are very satisfactory, the total quantity of land under cultivation having increased from 6,086 acres 0 roods 20 perches to 11,262 acres 0 roods 20 perches, or in the proportion of 85·05 per cent. on the quantity under cultivation on the 31st December 1862. The table supplies the means of comparison between the two years 1862 and 1863; and on examination it will be found that the districts which show the greatest increase are Brisbane, Warwick, and Gladstone, and that the principal items of increase are wheat, maize, potatoes, and cotton.

The returns of live stock continue to show a large increase in the pastoral wealth of the colony. Sheep are nearly 6,000,000 in number, and horned cattle nearly 900,000. Sheep have increased centesimally during the year 1863 at the rate of 24·58; cattle at the rate of 38·14; horses at the rate of 25·38; and pigs at the rate of 2·85 per cent.

The returns of liens on wool and of mortgages on live stock (*vide* tables Nos. XXXIX. and XL.) show, in the first place, that 118 liens on the ensuing clip of wool of 1,490,298 sheep have been registered during the past year, to secure the repayment of 259,870*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*; and, in the second place, that the previously existing mortgages on live stock, making the requisite reduction for the number cancelled, have been increased by an addition of 123, securing the repayment of 806,961*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*, and held over 985,990 sheep, 111,821 head of cattle, and 1,546 horses. Adding the above figures to the mortgages in existence on the 31st December 1862, the total quantity of mortgaged live stock on the 31st December 1863, is—sheep, 3,686,424; cattle, 423,783; horses, 29,884; and the amount secured thereon, 2,566,500*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* This increase in the number and amount of mortgages or live stock possibly explains the large diminution in the year's direct export of wool to Great Britain, which will be found in the export tables to have been the case. The Sydney merchants who advance money to the graziers of Queensland, who are in some cases embarrassed by the recent unfavourable seasons, generally require that the pastoral produce of their debtors shall pass through their own hands, and not through those of agents in this Colony.

COMPARATIVE VIEW of the STATE of AGRICULTURE in each DISTRICT of QUEENSLAND for the Years 1862 and 1863.

Year -	Brisbane.		Ipswich.		Warwick.		Drayton and Toowoomba.		Dalby.		Goondiwindi.		Maryborough.		Rockhampton.		Nanango.		Maranoa East and West.		Kennedy.		Gayndah.		Condamine.		Gladstone.		Leichhardt.		Total.	
	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.
	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r.	a. r.	a. r.	a. r.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r.	a. r.	a. r.	a. r.	a. r.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.
Wheat -	—	62 0 0	16 0 0	10 2 0	709 3 0	1,309 1 0	8 1 0	23 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	1 1 0	0 1 0	—	—	—	5 0	6 0	—	—	—	—	—	5 0 30	—	—	—	—	739 1 0	1,417 0 30
Maize -	854 1 0	1,593 3 2	419 3 0	489 1 12	892 1 0	1,065 3 0	388 2 9	464 1 3	—	14 0	1 0	8 1	171 2 0	238 3 0	16 0 0	47 0 0	9 2	18 1	—	10 3	—	3 0 0	22 2 0	25 2 6	—	—	4 0 0	13 2 1	—	2 1 1	2,779 1 9	3,994 1 25
Barley	—	5 2 0	—	5 0 0	7 1 0	24 0 0	17 1 0	2 0 0	—	—	—	—	7 0 0	—	3 0 20	2 0 0	—	1 2	—	—	—	—	—	2 0 0	—	--	—	0 0 4	—	—	34 2 20	42 0 4
Oats (for Grain.)	—	36 2 0	—	79 0 32	23 0 0	37 3 0	19 0 0	42 0 0	—	—	0 2	—	0 2 0	4 0 0	—	—	—	17 0	—	1 0	—	—	—	4 1 0	—	--	—	—	—	0 2 0	43 0 0	222 0 32
Millet	—	25 3 3	—	10 2 0	0 3 0	3 1 0	0 2 0	5 0 0	1 0	—	—	—	1 3 0	1 1 0	2 0 0	24 0 0	—	0 2	—	—	—	—	—	1 0 0	—	1 1 0	—	0 0 22	2 2 0	1 3 0	8 2 0	74 1 25
Potatoes	212 0 1	306 3 25	27 2 0	62 0 0	62 0 1	163 3 35	121 3 26½	252 3 21	—	1 2	0 2	1 0	35 2 20	48 3 0	4 1 21	12 0 0	—	0 2	—	0 1	—	1 0 0	2 0 0	3 0 0	—	0 0 12	1 0 0	17 2 15	0 0 8	0 2 20	466 3 37½	872 0 8
Bananas	107 2 22	135 1 0	—	5 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6 0 27	18 3 10	12 0 2	6 3 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12 1 4	0 0 8	—	134 3 19	178 0 14
Arrow-root.	17 2 30	27 3 37	2 0 4	14 0 4	—	—	0 1 0	0 1 0	—	—	—	—	1 0 1	13 0 3	0 0 0½	0 1 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0 2 0	—	—	0 0 1	—	20 3 36½	56 0 4
Cotton -	140 1 0	847 1 0	241 2 0	320 3 8	—	2 2 0	—	0 0 20	—	—	—	—	10 2 0	137 1 0	—	13 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	0 0 1	—	0 2 0	—	—	0 2 0	700 0 0	—	—	392 3 0	2,021 1 29
Dry Fodder.	307 0 0	173 3 0	284 2 0	487 2 0	199 2 0	209 0 0	29 0 0	52 3 0	—	—	—	—	—	3 0 0	16 0 0	--	10 0	7 0	—	—	—	—	—	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	846 0 0	934 0 0
Green Fodder.	48 0 0	292 1 0	29 0 0	42 0 0	20 3 0	83 3 32	3 0 0	127 2 0	—	1 0	—	—	4 0 0	14 0 0	20 1 0	—	5 0	1 0	—	0 1	—	—	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	5 0 0	—	0 2 0	131 0 0	567 1 32
Gardens	195 3 31	385 1 39	30 3 28	138 1 36	25 2 0	26 0 0	19 1 27	37 2 0	7 1	9 3	1 0	8 0	15 1 20	13 2 1	61 0 0	53 0 0	2 0	3 2	1 3	8 0	—	2 0 0	17 2 21	24 2 1	0 2	—	16 1 38½	18 2 0	7 0 0	19 0 0	401 3 5½	747 0 37
Vineyards.	20 0 16	30 0 0	19 1 0	0 3 1	1 1 24	13 1 24	12 1 39½	11 3 20	—	3 0	1 0	1 0	0 2 0	0 2 20	3 0 1	1 0 0	1 2	1 2	—	1 2	—	—	2 0 0	0 1 1	—	—	—	—	0 0 12	0 2 0	61 1 12½	65 2 26
All other Crops.	25 3 0	42 3 2	—	2 2 24	—	20 0 0	—	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	0 1 30	—	3 0 16	—	—	—	—	—	0 0 1	—	—	—	—	—	0 0	0 0 1	—	25 3 1	69 3 34
TOTAL -	1,928 2 20	3,965 0 28	1,070 1 32	1,667 2 37	1,942 0 25	2,958 3 11	619 2 22	1,020 0 24	8 1	29 1	4 0	18 1	253 3 28	494 2 24	138 0 4¼	162 0 16	28 0	50 3	6 3	27 3	—	6 1 2	45 0 21	62 0 8	0 2	7 0 2	21 3 38½	767 0 7	18 2 30	25 0 21	6,086 0 20½	11,262 0 20

TABLE showing the NUMBER of LIVE STOCK in the COLONY of QUEENSLAND in the Years 1860, 1861, 1862, and 1863.

DISTRICTS.	1860.				1861.				1862.				1863.			
	Horses	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Horses	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Horses	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Horses	Cattle.	Sheep	Pigs.
Brisbane -	2,609	55,804	42,895	2,049	3,012	54,836	14,235	1,842	2,562	26,654	30,976	1,297	5,012	68,429	4,475	1,581
Ipswich -	2,975	54,988	273,882	2,217	4,737	68,707	250,534	2,557	5,068	79,638	267,460	2,230	4,752	88,285	170,614	1,805
Warwick -	2,903	27,212	468,943	1,046	3,296	30,432	525,076	1,095	3,944	39,121	523,949	917	4,041	36,331	534,569	1,178
Drayton and Toowoomba.	1,309	11,554	229,061	428	1,855	32,625	343,994	486	2,616	22,440	460,452	522	3,789	34,441	486,785	737
Gayndah -	1,780	35,196	506,066	264	2,275	46,361	542,462	265	2,261	57,523	620,718	331	2,657	65,142	696,185	367
Dalby -	1,599	18,698	337,545	115	1,298	15,965	405,481	109	1,494	18,350	355,018	122	1,851	25,586	546,218	185
Goondiwindi	1,698	24,095	142,948	59	2,726	55,740	134,622	88	5,278	31,493	145,516	111	5,248	32,400	113,030	98
Maryborough	1,818	65,053	112,953	778	1,862	69,995	92,149	715	2,404	82,954	96,594	975	2,084	88,314	98,714	603
Rockhampton	1,365	13,132	303,849	89	724	26,321	152,959	62	1,170	44,302	154,203	184	1,598	21,356	196,119	322
Nanango -	1,620	23,774	156,870	35	1,635	23,489	184,151	36	1,449	13,714	179,287	14	1,556	16,817	122,176	27
East Maranoa	No returns.				951	48,325	336,424	—	1,206	51,558	427,919	—	1,202	64,739	537,701	—
West Maranoa									2,138	91,702	42,222	44	3,718	115,706	307,170	29
Kennedy* -	134	121	2	7	550	17,200	61,800	—	*550	17,200	61,800	—	1,832	55,691	255,500	28
Leichhardt -	859	4,337	282,548	13	2,461	48,928	847,797	118	2,704	27,311	981,384	113	4,240	101,246	1,291,035	131
Condamine -	2,173	82,943	493,281	29	307	3,851	84,104	4	455	9,959	134,029	1	628	11,661	187,369	5
Gladstone -	662	15,983	98,507	18	1,294	17,421	117,593	88	1,233	23,377	71,826	205	1,236	36,256	57,513	253
Mitchell -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	361	17,992	67,227	2
TOTAL -	23,504	432,890	3,166,802	7,147	28,983	560,196	4,093,381	7,465	36,532	637,296	4,553,353	7,066	45,805	880,392	5,672,400	7,351

* The numbers of 1861 are here given as a better approximation than the very incomplete Returns of 1862.

Commerce and Shipping.

The Customs returns of imports and exports, *vide* tables Nos. LXXVIII. to LXXX. inclusive, exhibits a most satisfactory increase in the commerce of the Colony. The total value of the year's imports is 1,713,263*l.*, and of the year's exports 888,381*l.* A correct comparison between the estimated value of the last, with former years' exports is made difficult by the fluctuation in the estimated value per lb. of wool exported; for instance, in 1861 it was estimated at 21*d.* per lb., in 1862 at 18½*d.*, and in 1863 a distinction seems to have been drawn between wool exported direct to England and wool exported to New South Wales; the former being valued at about 20½*d.* per lb., and the latter at about 15¼*d.* Had the same value all round been given to the wool of 1863, as was affixed to the wool of 1862, the estimated value of that year's export of wool would be 822,405*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* instead of 776,776*l.*; but whilst the whole exports of the Colony would be thus increased in value, the value of the direct exports to Great Britain would be diminished from 233,392*l.* to 212,231*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*, showing, as compared with the year 1862, a very large diminution in the estimated value of direct exports to Great Britain, amounting to no less than 26,321*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, or to a centesimal diminution at the rate of 11·03 per cent.; and the exports to the Australian Colonies would, on the other hand, be raised from 649,299*l.* to 741,143*l.* 10*d.* This diminution of exports of wool to Great Britain direct, which in weight amounts to 20,598 lbs., is hard to reconcile with the shipping returns, except by the supposition that ships have left without full cargoes; for tables LI. to LX. inclusive, when compared with the corresponding tables of the year 1862, show a small increase to the tonnage of ships cleared out with cargoes for that country.

Comparing the year's imports and exports with its average population, calculated to the 30th June, the former are at the rate per head of 31*l.* 14*s.* 10½*d.*, and the latter of 16*l.* 9*s.* 2½*d.* In the year 1862 the proportions were 33*l.* 6*s.* 4¾*d.* of imports, and 19*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.* of exports per head of the average population. The diminution in the exports of the year 1863 is more apparent than real, for it arises from the smaller estimated value placed per lb. on the wool exported.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of NUMBER, TONNAGE, and CREWS of VESSELS entered Inwards in the Colony of QUEENSLAND, during the Years 1860, 1861, 1862, and 1863.

Countries whence arrived.	Year.	British.									Foreign.									Total.								
		With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.			With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.			With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
		Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
Great Britain	1860	3	1,085	48	—	—	—	3	1,085	48	1	315	11	—	—	—	1	315	11	4	1,400	59	—	—	—	4	1,400	59
	1861	7	6,105	213	—	—	—	7	6,105	213	1	281	11	—	—	—	1	281	11	8	6,386	224	—	—	—	8	6,386	224
	1862	22	19,723	762	1	32	8	23	19,755	770	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	19,723	762	1	32	8	23	19,755	770
	1863	29	32,157	1,217	—	—	—	29	32,157	1,217	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	32,157	1,217	—	—	—	29	32,157	1,217
New South Wales	1860	196	42,950	3,603	2	210	18	198	43,160	3,621	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	196	42,950	3,603	2	210	18	198	43,160	3,621
	1861	221	47,588	4,283	1	147	19	222	47,735	4,302	—	—	—	1	47	4	1	47	4	221	47,588	4,283	2	194	23	223	47,782	4,306
	1862	262	48,247	4,946	4	319	28	266	48,566	4,974	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	262	48,247	4,946	4	319	28	266	48,566	4,974
	1863	304	61,414	6,186	7	965	46	311	62,379	6,232	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	61,414	6,186	7	965	46	311	62,379	6,232
Victoria	1860	3	568	29	—	—	—	3	568	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	568	29	—	—	—	3	568	29
	1861	9	1,396	130	—	—	—	9	1,396	130	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	1,396	130	—	—	—	9	1,396	130
	1862	19	2,611	99	—	—	—	19	2,611	99	1	1,436	33	—	—	—	1	1,436	33	20	5,047	132	—	—	—	20	5,047	132
	1863	17	2,387	167	—	—	—	17	2,387	167	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	2,387	167	—	—	—	17	2,387	167
South Australia	1860	1	130	7	—	—	—	1	130	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	130	7	—	—	—	1	130	7
	1861	4	867	37	—	—	—	4	867	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	867	37	—	—	—	4	867	37
	1862	6	1,049	52	—	—	—	6	1,049	52	1	316	9	—	—	—	1	316	8	7	1,365	61	—	—	—	7	1,365	61
	1863	12	2,129	99	—	—	—	12	2,129	99	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	2,129	99	—	—	—	12	1,129	99
Tasmania	1860	3	431	24	—	—	—	3	431	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	431	24	—	—	—	3	431	24
	1861	4	533	28	—	—	—	4	533	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	533	28	—	—	—	4	533	28
	1862	7	1,020	50	—	—	—	7	1,020	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1,020	50	—	—	—	7	1,020	50
	1863	12	1,963	111	—	—	—	12	1,963	111	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	1,963	111	—	—	—	12	1,963	111
New Zealand	1860	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1862	2	416	22	—	—	—	2	416	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	416	22	—	—	—	2	416	22
	1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Ports not European	1860	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	47	5	1	47	5	—	—	—	1	47	5	1	47	5
	1861	1	101	7	1	72	6	2	173	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	101	7	1	72	6	2	173	13
	1862	3	888	104	—	—	—	3	888	104	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	888	104	—	—	—	3	888	104
	1863	1	166	7	1	124	6	2	290	13	—	—	—	1	179	10	1	179	10	1	166	7	2	303	16	3	469	23
Other European Ports	1860	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	240	12	—	—	—	1	240	12	1	240	12	—	—	—	1	240	12
	1862	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1,255	43	—	—	—	2	1,255	43	2	1,255	43	—	—	—	2	1,255	43
	1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2,937	99	—	—	—	5	2,937	99	5	2,937	99	—	—	—	5	2,937	99
Totals	1860	206	45,164	3,711	2	210	18	208	45,374	3,729	1	315	11	1	47	5	2	362	16	207	45,479	3,722	3	257	23	210	45,736	3,745
	1861	246	56,590	4,698	2	219	25	248	56,809	4,723	2	521	23	1	47	4	3	568	27	248	57,111	4,721	3	266	29	251	57,377	4,750
	1862	321	73,954	6,033	5	351	36	326	74,305	6,069	4	3,007	85	—	—	—	4	3,007	85	325	76,961	6,118	5	351	36	330	77,312	6,154
	1863	375	100,216	7,787	8	1,089	52	383	101,305	7,839	5	2,937	99	1	179	10	6	3,116	109	380	103,153	7,886	9	1,268	62	389	104,421	7,948

TOTAL VALUE in Sterling o the IMPORTS and EXPORTS of the Colony of QUEENSLAND, from and to each Country, in the Years 1860, 1861, 1862, and 1863, as per Customs Returns and Valuation.

Countries.	Year.	Imports therefrom.	Exports thereto.	Imports.	Exports.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£
Great Britain	1860	56,730 0 0	—	—	—
	1861	90,905 0 0	119,515 0 0	60·24	—
	1862	215,509 0 0	238,553 0 0	137·07	99·60
	1863	365,093 0 0	233,392 0 0	69·41	2·02
Australian Colonies and New Zealand	1860	523,165 0 0	161,546 0 0	—	—
	1861	874,797 13 11	589,633 15 0	67·21	26·50
	1862	1,100,935 0 0	550,839 0 0	25·85	7·04
	1863	1,335,606 0 0	649,299 0 0	21·32	17·87
Germany	1860	—	—	—	—
	1861	1,180 0 0	—	—	—
	1862	4,688 0 0	—	29·73	—
	1863	12,539 0 0	—	16·53	—
India, China, Ceylon, Batavia, and Penang	1860	—	311 0 0	—	—
	1861	—	450 0 0	—	44·69
	1862	3 0 0	1,876 0 0	—	316·89
	1863	—	4,521 0 0	—	140·99
South America	1860	—	—	—	—
	1861	—	—	—	—
	1862	—	1,968 0 0	—	—
	1863	—	706 0 0	—	178·75
New Caledonia	1860	—	311 0 0	—	—
	1861	—	—	—	—
	1862	2,394 0 0	—	—	—
	1863	—	—	—	—
South Sea Islands and Coral Sea Fishery	1860	—	—	—	—
	1861	1,068 0 0	—	—	—
	1862	—	—	—	—
	1863	25 0 0	463 0 0	—	—
Totals	1860	742,023 0 0	523,476 0 0	—	—
	1861	967,950 13 11	709,598 15 0	30·45	35·56
	1862	1,323,509 0 0	793,236 0 0	11·79	11·79
	1863	1,713,263 0 0	888,381 0 0	11·99	11·99

Finance.

The Auditor General's statement of the annual revenue and expenditure of the Colony contains very full information on this important subject.

By the first of these tables, viz., the account current, it is shown that the amount of actual receipts during 1863, irrespective of loans, is 295,215*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*, while the year's expenditure, irrespective of certain special receipts transferred to separate accounts, is 355,791*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*, leaving an apparent excess of expenditure of 60,576*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* On referring to the statement of receipts it will be seen that although the proceeds of land sales are given at 135,614*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* credit has been taken only for the sum of 40,007*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, the explanation being that this smaller sum is all that has been received under this head in current coin, and that the difference, namely 95,607*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, has been received in the land orders given to immigrants. It admits, perhaps, of some doubt how far it is correct, under any circumstances, to consider the proceeds of land sales as forming a part of the year's revenue, but it has apparently been decided that it should be so; and it is therefore a great pity that necessity compels the account current to take notice only of a portion of the receipts derived from this source, to ignore all save cash payments, and in consequence to produce an erroneous impression that the expenditure has been greater than the revenue.

QUEENSLAND.

The following table comparing the receipts of the two years 1862 and 1863 affords the best proof of the progress of the Colony.

—	1862.	1863.	Increase.	Centesimal Increase.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Customs - - -	96,107 11 8	125,199 6 11	29,091 15 3	30·26
Land Revenue* - -	192,585 18 11	223,436 15 1	30,850 16 2	16·02
Postage - - -	8,878 16 4	11,481 10 4	2,602 14 0	29·30
Licenses - - -	9,022 13 3	12,341 17 3	3,319 4 0	36·78
Fees of Office - - -	5,662 5 3	7,321 8 7	1,659 3 4	29·30
Fines and Forfeitures - -	2,125 2 2	1,101 19 8	1,023 2 6	A diminution.
Rents, exclusive of Lands -	288 15 0	323 3 9	34 8 9	11·80
Pilotage, Harbour Dues, and Fees	1,544 12 3	2,260 11 6	715 19 3	46·30
Electric Telegraph - -	3,665 2 11	4,120 6 1	455 3 2	12·41
Miscellaneous - - -	10,449 7 4	3,236 1 8	7,213 5 8	A diminution.
Total Receipts -	330,325 5 1	390,823 0 10	60,491 15 9	13·31

* The full value of land sold is entered in each year.

It is curious to observe, by the following table, how the increase of population and of customs receipts have kept pace with each other. 2*l.* 5*s.* 10¾*d.* is the annual average of the last four years paid to the revenue by each man, woman, and child in the country, At this rate an immigrant family soon repays its passage money.

Year.	Population on the 30th June.	Customs Receipts.	Average per Head.	—
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1860 - - -	27,017	59,210 3 7	2 3 9¾	
1861 - -	31,886	71,678 18 11	2 5 7	
1862 - - -	40,593	96,107 11 8	2 7 4¼	
1863 - -	53,970	125,199 6 11	2 6 4¾	
TOTAL -	153,466	352,196 1 1	2 5 10¾	Average of 4 years.

The two following tables, with which I beg to conclude this Report, have been compiled with much care; the first is intended to present a synoptical abstract of the population, revenue, and expenditure, of the commercial, pastoral, agricultural, and mining interests, and lastly of the amount of education and of crime existing in the Colony.

The second of the following tables is compiled to supply the means of easy comparison, and of noting year by year the great progress which the Colony of Queensland has made since the day of its erection into a separate community, viz., December 10, 1859.

Synopsis of the Statistics of Queensland from 1860 to 1863 inclusive.

Year.	Population.			Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Immigration.	Emigration.	Land Sales.		Number of Acres under Cultivation.	Live Stock.			
	Males.	Females.	Persons.						Number of Acres.	Amount Realized.		Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
									A. R. P.	£ s. d.	A. R. P.				
1859 - - -	14,940	10,206	25,146	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1860 - -	17,275	11,612	28,887	1,236	255	478	—	—	23,587 1 21	37,978 15 3	3,353 1 0	23,504	432,890	3,166,802	7,147
1861 - - -	21,231	13,654	34,885	1,423	320	499	6,178	1,809	56,849 1 14¼	94,063 3 1	4,440 2 18	28,983	560,196	4,093,381	7,465
1862 - -	28,177	18,123	46,300	1,702	570	797	12,252	2,447	67,873 1 9	106,019 13 5	6,086 0 20¾	36,532	637,296	4,553,353	7,066
1863 - - -	37,579	24,061	61,640	2,221	774	1,275	17,450	3,761	62,948 1 38¼	108,828 8 6	11,262 0 20	45,805	880,392	5,672,400	7,351

Year.	Shipping.						Exports of Colonial Produce.			Imports.	Exports.	Gross Revenue.		Gross Expenditure.		Loans authorized by Parliament.	Schools.		Convictions in the Supreme Court.
	Inwards.			Outwards.			Wool (Value.)	Tallow (Value.)	Hides and Skins (Value.)	(Total Value.)	(Total Value.)						Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£			
1860 -	210	45,736	3,745	183	39,503	3,138	444,188	25,628	14,030	742,023	523,477	178,589	8 5	161,503	5 3	—	62	3,169	30
1861 -	251	57,377	4,750	234	51,827	4,395	613,074	48,009	19,834	967,951	709,599	238,238	9 1	299,006	5 5	123,800	68	4,221	24
1862 -	330	77,312	6,154	305	71,981	5,554	671,970	50,961	17,362	1,323,509	793,236	346,431	5 5	367,316	14 7	—	84	4,925	23
1863 -	389	104,421	7,948	353	98,844	7,184	776,776	30,716	16,149	1,713,263	888,381	390,823	0 10	416,584	14 11	707,436	107	6,175	56

TABLE exhibiting the ANNUAL INCREASE per cent. in the Years 1861, 1862, and 1863, and the TOTAL INCREASE per cent. in the TRIENNIAL PERIOD.

—	Population.			Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Immigration.	Emigration.	Land Sales.		Number of Acres under Cultivation.	Live Stock.			
	Males.	Females.	Persons.						Number of Acres.	Amount Realized.		Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Increase per cent. in 1861	22·90	17·59	20·73	15·29	25·49	4·39	—	—	141·02	147·67	32·42	23·31	29·41	29·26	4·45
Increase per cent. in 1862	32·72	32·73	32·72	19·61	78·13	59·72	98·32	35·27	19·39	12·71	37·29	26·05	13·76	11·24	-5·65
Increase per cent. in 1863	33·37	32·76	33·13	30·49	35·79	59·97	42·43	53·62	-7·26	2·65	85·05	25·38	38·14	24·58	4·03
Increase per cent. in the three years.	117·53	107·21	113·38	79·69	203·53	166·53	182·45	107·90	166·88	186·55	235·88	94·88	103·38	79·12	2·85

—	Shipping.						Exports of Colonial Produce.			Imports.	Exports.	Gross Revenue.	Gross Expenditure.	Schools.	
	Inwards.			Outwards.											
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.	Wool (Value.)	Tallow (Value.)	Hides and Skins(Value.)	Total Value.	Total Value.			Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars.
Increase per cent. in 1861	19·52	25·45	26·84	27·87	31·20	40·06	38·02	87·33	41·37	30·45	35·55	33·40	85·14	9·68	33·20
Increase per cent. in 1862	31·47	34·74	29·56	30·34	38·89	26·37	9·61	6·15	-14·24	36·73	11·79	45·41	22·85	23·53	16·68
Increase per cent. in 1863	17·88	35·06	29·15	15·74	37·32	24·10	15·60	-65·91	-7·51	29·45	11·99	12·81	13·41	27·38	25·38
Increase per cent. in the three years.	85·24	28·31	112·23	92·90	150·22	128·94	74·88	19·85	15·10	130·89	69·71	118·84	157·94	72·58	94·86

I have, &c.
F. O. DARVALL,
Registrar General.

VICTORIA.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir CHARLES DARLING, K.C.B., to the Right Honorable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

No. 48. Government House, Melbourne,
25 March, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the statistics of the Colony of Victoria, for the year 1863, which have been recently completed and placed in my hands.

2. Having assumed the government of the Colony towards the close of that year I have little personal acquaintance with its history during the period to which the returns relate. The delay in completing them is occasioned by the desire to render them as perfect as possible.

3. The statistical position of the Colony in the most important particulars both actual and comparatively with former years may be readily gathered from the table prefixed to the statistics, of which I have attached a copy to this Despatch; and as a document, which has just been issued by the Registrar-General for the Dublin International Exhibition, not only elucidates some of the tabular statements of the return, but contains interesting notices of the condition of the Colony at a more recent date, and I beg leave to forward a copy of that document also in the form of an appendix.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., (Signed) C. H. DARLING.
&c. &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 18.

Encl. 1 in No. 18.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF VICTORIA FROM 1854 TO 1863 INCLUSIVE.

YEAR.	Population.			Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immigration.	Emigration.	Flour Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	Land Sales.		Number of Acres under Cultivation.	Live Stock.				YEAR.
	Males.	Females.	Persons.								Number of Acres.	Amount realized.		Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	
												£						
1854	205,629	106,678	312,307	7,542	6,261	3,765	83,410	34,975	40	152	405,679	1,357,965	54,905	27,038	481,640	5,332,007	9,278	1854
1855	234,450	129,874	364,324	11,941	6,603	3,847	66,571	26,395	51	227	438,972	763,554	115,135	33,430	534,113	4,577,872	20,686	1855
1856	255,827	141,733	397,560	14,420	5,728	4,116	41,594	21,187	77	213	437,562	749,318	179,983	47,832	646,613	4,641,548	52,227	1856
1857	297,547	165,588	463,135	17,384	7,449	4,524	74,255	20,471	88	386	500,383	1,067,450	237,729	55,683	614,537	4,766,022	43,632	1857
1858	323,576	180,943	504,519	19,929	9,015	4,552	56,168	25,882	89	421	255,724	638,650	298,960	68,323	699,330	5,578,413	37,756	1858
1859	335,708	194,554	530,262	22,092	9,469	4,769	32,735	19,615	97	407	459,082	814,164	358,728	69,288	683,534	5,794,127	50,965	1859
1860	328,251	209,596	537,847	22,863	12,061	4,351	29,037	21,689	94	475	492,248	663,238	419,380	76,536	722,332	5,780,896	61,259	1860
1861	321,724	220,076	541,800	23,461	10,522	4,434	26,912	35,898	104	429	514,745	623,588	439,895	84,057	628,092	6,239,258	43,480	1861
1862	325,768	229,976	555,744	24,391	10,080	4,525	37,836	38,203	104	603	844,969	910,862	465,430	86,067	576,601	6,764,851	52,991	1862
1863	330,571	243,760	574,331	23,906	9,502	4,227	38,983	34,800	110	646	295,180	450,646	507,798	103,328	675,272	7,115,943	79,655	1863

YEAR.	Shipping.				Exports of Colonial Produce.					Imports (Total Value).	Exports (Total Value).	Revenue for the Service of each Year.	Expenditure for the Service of each Year.	Schools.		Number of Churches, Chapels, &c.	Convictions in the Supreme Court.	YEAR.
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Gold.		Wool (Value).	Tallow (Value).	Hides and Skins (Value).					Number of Schools.	Scholars.			
	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.												
					oz.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£					
1854	2,596	794,604	2,607	798,837	2,392,065	9,568,262	1,618,114	22,750	29,465	17,659,051	11,775,204	3,087,986	4,185,708	391	20,107	187	370	1854
1855	1,907	551,726	1,995	581,557	2,793,065	11,172,261	1,405,659	29,117	41,871	12,007,939	13,493,338	2,728,656	2,612,807	438	24,478	349	309	1855
1856	1,920	538,609	1,959	538,362	2,985,696	11,942,783	1,506,613	35,980	72,103	14,962,269	15,489,760	2,972,496	2,668,834	455	26,323	473	272	1856
1857	2,190	694,564	2,207	684,526	2,761,528	11,046,113	1,335,642	62,363	191,828	17,256,209	15,079,512	3,328,303	2,968,658	675	36,671	587	425	1857
1858	2,034	648,103	2,015	641,254	2,528,188	10,112,752	1,678,290	43,987	106,527	15,108,249	13,989,209	2,973,383	3,092,720	740	42,432	645	535	1858
1859	2,026	634,131	2,056	661,518	2,280,676	9,122,702	1,756,950	10,354	172,446	15,622,891	13,867,859	3,261,104	3,393,946	772	46,265	642	582	1859
1860	1,814	581,642	1,841	599,137	2,156,661	8,626,642	2,025,066	18,269	144,236	15,093,730	12,962,704	3,082,461	3,315,307	886	51,668	874	416	1860
1861	1,778	549,195	1,820	540,807	1,967,420	7,869,758	2,088,713	75,784	100,384	13,532,452	13,828,606	2,952,101	3,092,021	882	56,473	989	462	1861
1862	1,715	556,188	1,766	581,892	1,658,285	6,685,192	2,350,956	66,515	130,350	13,487,787	13,039,422	3,269,079	3,039,497	989	65,541	1,137	414	1862
1863	1,739	624,061	1,782	618,052	1,627,066	6,520,957	2,049,491	33,871	106,264	14,118,727	13,566,296	*2,720,786	*1,997,314	1,019	69,619	1,352	375	1863

* The figures of Revenue and Expenditure given for 1863 are only the receipts and disbursements *during* 1863, on account of that year. The whole returns of Revenue and Expenditure *for the service of* 1863 will also include the receipts and payments on account of that year down to the end of 1864. These statements had not been made up in the Treasury when this sheet was sent to the press.

WILLIAM HENRY ARCHER, Registrar-General.

VICTORIA.

Encl. 2 in No. 18.

Enclosure 2 in No. 18.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY of the PROGRESS of the COLONY OF VICTORIA to the Year 1865.

Position.

THE Colony of Victoria is situated at the most southern part of the great Australian continent. It lies between the 34th and 39th parallels of south latitude, and the 141st and 150th meridians of east longitude.

Area.

2. The area of Victoria is 86,831 square miles. The island of Great Britain contains 89,644 square miles, and is thus slightly larger than Victoria.

Climate.

3. From its position Victoria enjoys a cooler climate than any other colony upon the same continent. Except during the prevalence of hot north winds, which occur at intervals during the summer, the weather is never oppressive. The winter season is mild, and the thermometer but rarely falls below the freezing point.

4. A fair average of the principal meteorological results throughout the colony, may be gathered from the following figures, which show the mean temperature, mean atmospheric pressure, and amount of rainfall for the year 1863, in two seaport and two inland towns.

Name of Town.	Height above sea level.	Year 1863.			
		Mean Temperature.	Mean height of Barometer.	Number of days on which rain fell.	Amount of rain fall.
	feet.	°	inches.		inches.
Melbourne—seaport - -	91·3	57·5	29·896	172	36·428
Portland „ - - -	37·0	61·7	29·949	178	45·310
Ballarat—inland - - -	1438·0	52·9	28·479	173	37·270
Sandhurst „ - - -	778·5	57·8	29·163	150	33·920

Population.

5. The last census of Victoria was taken on the 7th April 1861, when the population was found to amount to 540,322 souls ; viz., 328,651 males, and 211,671 females. An estimate based upon this return and upon the records of births, deaths, arrivals, and departures since that period, shows the population at the end of 1864 to have numbered 604,858, viz., 347,954 males, and 256,904 females.

6. Taking the population at the date of the census, and the area of the colony already given, the proportion was about six persons to the square mile. By the estimate of population on the 31st December 1864, the proportion was nearly seven to the square mile. According to the returns of the last census of the United Kingdom, taken simultaneously with that of Victoria, there were 344 persons to the square mile in England and Wales, and 177 persons in Ireland.

Relative Proportion of the Sexes.

7. At the time the census was taken, the proportion of females to males in Victoria was as 64 to 100. The estimate brought down to the end of 1864, shows a proportion of 74 females to 100 males.

Houses.

8. The number of inhabited dwellings in Victoria at the time of the census was 128,617, in which 535,043 persons were housed, this being the total land population of the colony, exclusive of persons actually travelling. This shows a proportion of about four persons to a house, or, more correctly, of 42 persons in 10 houses. If the houses, since the census, have increased in the same ratio as the population, there would now be not less than 144,000 houses in the colony.

Principal Towns.

9. The principal town in Victoria is Melbourne, which is also the most populous city in all Australia. At the time of the census it contained, with its immediate suburbs, 126,536 souls. At the same period, Geelong contained 22,986 inhabitants; Ballarat, 22,104; Sandhurst, 13,020; Castlemaine, 9,683; and Creswick, 4714. Of other municipalities, two contained populations ranging between 3,000 and 4,000; seven between 2,000 and 3,000; ten between 1,000 and 2,000; and two between 500 and 1,000.

Municipal Boroughs.

10. The total number of municipalities which had been formed at the time of the census was 44, containing a population of 235,301, or 43½ per cent. of the inhabitants of the colony. According to a return brought down to the end of 1863, the number of municipalities (or "boroughs," as they are termed by a recent Act) then formed amounted to 58, containing an aggregate of 276,815 inhabitants.

Road Districts and Shires.

11. Besides self government by borough councils, another form of local self government exists in Victoria—that by district road boards and shire councils. At the time of the census 63 road districts had been proclaimed, containing 190,298 persons. At the end of 1863, 98 road districts and shires were in existence, having 216,753 inhabitants. The population of shires and road districts added to that of municipal boroughs, amounts to at least six-sevenths of the total population of the colony.

Chinese and Aborigine

12. The number of Chinese located in the colony at the time of the last census, was 24,732, of this large number only eight were females. The aboriginal inhabitants returned amounted to no more than 1,694, of which 648 were females.

Occupations.

13. The occupations of the people of Victoria at the time of the census were divided for the purposes of compilation into 15 classes, which were again sub-divided into 67 sub-classes. Their nature will, however, be better understood, if condensed under the following 10 heads:—1. Persons engaged in Commerce, Trade, and Manufactures, numbering 86,746. 2. Gold Miners, numbering 83,116. 3. Persons following Agricultural and Pastoral Pursuits, numbering 54,923. 4. Labourers (branch of labour undefined), numbering 8,122. 5. Domestic Servants, numbering 23,695. 6. Persons engaged in learned Professions, Fine Arts, and Literature, numbering 7,376. 7. Persons maintained out of the Public Revenue, numbering 8,333. 8. Persons engaged in Miscellaneous Pursuits, numbering 1,056. 9. Persons of Independent Means, numbering 1,363. 10. Residue of the Population (consisting chiefly of women engaged in domestic duties, and of children being educated), numbering 265,592.

Gold Miners.

14. A careful estimate of the gold miners on the gold fields has been brought down to the end of 1864, by which it appears that they numbered at that period about 85,000. The miners actually on the gold fields when the census was taken amounted to 79,000, so that they have increased by 6,000 since then. To what extent the other branches of industry have been augmented during the interval which has elapsed since March 1861, will not be known until another census has been taken.

Birthplaces.

15. The returns of nationality compiled from the census schedules, show 157,911 of the inhabitants of Victoria to have been Australian born, 169,586 to have been English, 6,055 to have been Welsh, 60,701 to have been Scotch, 87,160 to have been Irish, 8,030 to have been born in other British Dominions, 46,338 to have belonged to foreign countries, and 4,541 to have been of unknown nationality. These results give 9,059 out of every 10,000 inhabitants in the colony as British subjects, 857 as foreign subjects, and 84 as unspecified.

Religions.

16. By the census returns of religions, 381,113 of the inhabitants of the Colony were Protestant, (embracing 212,068 members of the Church of England, 87,103 members of the Church of Scotland, 46,511 Wesleyan Methodists, and 35,431 of other denominations;) 109,829 were Roman Catholics. 2,903 were Jews, and there was a residue of 46,477, embracing Pagans, Mahomedans, persons of no religion, unspecified, &c. In every 10,000 of the population there were thus 7,053 Protestants, 2,032 Roman Catholics, 54 Jews, and 861 of other sects.

Ages.

17. As regards age, it is found that Victoria possesses in proportion to her population a larger number of persons in the prime of life, and fewer of the old and very young than either of the other Australian Colonies; thus, while at the time of the last census New South Wales had, between the ages of 15 and 65, only 6,072 out of every 10,000 of her inhabitants, and South Australia no more than 5,547; Victoria had as many as 6,447 out of every 10,000. As compared with the Mother Country, the results of age are also, to a marked extent, in favour of Victoria, for while Great Britain has only 477 persons in 1,000 between 20 and 60 years of age, Victoria has 574 in every 1,000.

Conjugal Condition.

18. The census returns of conjugal condition show, that of every 1,000 males in the Colony, 298 are husbands; of every 1,000 females, 402 are wives; also, that of males of 20 and upwards, 458, and of females of 20 and upwards, 784 in every 1,000 are married.

VICTORIA.

Education.

19. The returns of education show, that nearly four-fifths of the population over five years of age are able to read and write, that ten-elevenths are able to read, and that about one-eleventh are uninstructed; also, that of children at the school age or between five and fifteen, 760 in 1,000 can read, and 486 in 1,000 can read and write. These results are more favourable than those shown by the education returns of any other Australian Colony.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

20. The births in 1864 numbered 25,322, the deaths 9,202, and the marriages 4,529. The births and marriages show larger numbers than in the previous year; notwithstanding the population has been increasing, the deaths have gradually diminished in numbers during each year since 1860.

Immigration and Emigration.

21. The arrivals in Victoria during 1864 numbered 36,156, and the departures 21,779. The increase of population by excess of the former over the latter amounted, therefore, in that year, to 14,377. This is a larger increase from without than has taken place in any year since 1858. Since the year 1836, 796,515 persons have come to the Colony by sea, and 396,206 have left it by the same means. The difference between which numbers shows a balance of 400,309 in favour of immigration.

Land Sales.

22. The crown lands sold and granted in Victoria from its first settlement to the end of 1864 amounted to 5,908,212 acres, and the amount of purchase money realized by the Government was 11,690,191*l.* The extent of land remaining unalienated at the same date was 49,735,948 acres; of this quantity, 28,826,756 acres was held under lease for pastoral purposes only, by 1,161 occupiers, giving an average of about 25,000 acres to each occupier.

Land in Occupation.

23. The alienated land is nearly all in occupation. By the last return (31st March 1864) 17,679 holders were in possession of lots of over an acre in extent, the average to each being 314 acres. The same return showed that nearly three-fourths of the alienated land was enclosed, but that only an eleventh was under cultivation.

Agriculture.

24. The total extent cultivated was 507,798 acres, or less than an acre to every head of the population. About 149,000 acres were under wheat, 152,000 acres under oats, 8,000 acres under barley, 28,000 acres under potatoes, 96,000 acres under hay, 35,000 acres under green forage, and the remainder under minor crops.

25. Owing to atmospheric influences, the last harvest was, to a great extent, a failure, but during the last ten years the average produce to the acre of wheat has been 20 bushels; of oats, 27 bushels; of barley, 23 bushels; of potatoes, 2¾ tons; and of hay, 1½ tons.

26. The minor crops consist of maize, rye and bere, peas, beans and millet, turnips, mangel-wurzel, beet, carrots and parsnips, onions, tobacco and vines. For the two latter, the soil and climate of Victoria appear to be well suited, although their cultivation has only recently begun to be much attended to. Tobacco during the last season covered 623 acres and produced 5,913 cwt.; vines covered 3,076 acres, the produce of which was 121,000 gallons of wine, besides a large quantity of grapes otherwise disposed of.

Live Stock.

27. The live stock in the colony, according to the returns for 1864, amounted to 103,328 horses, 126,786 milch cows, 548,486 other horned cattle, 7,115,943 sheep, and 79,655 pigs. All these descriptions of stock show an increase in the numbers returned in the previous year.

Manufactures.

28. With regard to manufacturing industry, there were in Victoria during 1864, 110 flour mills, which operated upon 3,280,000 bushels of wheat during the year, and produced nearly 70,000 tons of flour. There were 70 breweries, in which nearly 4,000,000 gallons of beer were brewed during the year, and there were 646 manufactories and works of different descriptions, 204 of which carried on their operations by steam, 15 by water power, 4 by wind, 72 by horse, and 351 by manual labour. The total amount of power they employed was equal to that of 2,823 horses, and the number of hands engaged was between 6,000 and 7,000.

Gold Mining Machinery.

29. The total number of steam engines employed for gold mining purposes at the end of 1864 was 888, of which 441 were used in alluvial, and 447 in quartz mining. The approximate value of all mining plant upon the gold fields was 1,496,699*l.* At the same time it was ascertained that an extent of 799 square miles of alluvial ground throughout the Colony had been actually worked upon since the opening of the gold fields.

Postage.

30. The number of post offices in Victoria at the end of 1864 was 475, through which 7,034,467 letters and 5,226,485 newspapers passed during the year. The postal revenue in the same year was 126,451*l.*, and the expenditnre was 127,000*l.*, irrespective of the cost of postal communication with Great Britain.

Electric Telegraphs.

31. The electric telegraphs in Victoria are in the hands of the Government. The telegraph stations in the colony at the end of 1864 numbered 73, between which were 2,326½ miles of lines, provided with 2,626½ miles of wire; the number of messages transmitted during the year was 256,380, of which 71,939 were on behalf of the Government, and 184,441 were for private individuals. The Government messages, of course, travel free, but if their value be calculated at the same rate as that of private messages, it would amount to 14,376*l.*, and with 29,122*l.* actually received from the public, would make a total revenue of 43,497*l.* against 35,976*l.* expended on maintenance during the year.

Railways.

32. The returns of railways have not been brought down later than the end of 1863. The Government lines extending from Melbourne to Sandhurst, and from Melbourne to Geelong and Ballarat, were then 196 miles in length, but have since been opened to Echuca, making an aggregate of 250 miles.* The total cost of the first portion of those lines was 7,452,000*l.*, or an average of 38,070*l.* a mile. The private lines are all in the vicinity of the metropolis, and are the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay, 6½ miles in length; the Melbourne and Brighton, 6½ miles in length; and the Melbourne, 5½ miles long. The cost of these private lines amounted to 1,121,548*l.*. or rather more than 60,000*l.* a mile. The number of passengers carried on all the lines during the year 1863 was 3,063,652; the weight of goods 440,000 tons, and the total receipts 579,922*l.*

Imports and Exports.

33. The total value of imports in the year 1864, approximately made up in the Customs, was 14,409,028, that of exports was 13,850,895*l.* These numbers are slightly in excess of those for the previous year. The value of imports, however, in each of the years from 1853 to 1860 inclusive, except 1855, and the value of exports in each of the years from 1856 to 1859 inclusive, exceeded those in the year 1864.

Gold.

34. The gold exported in 1864 was 1,545,449 ozs., valued at 6,206,237*l.* This quantity was slightly less than that in 1863. Since the gold discoveries 30,716,200 ozs. of Victorian gold have passed through the Customs; which with an estimate for the gold which has been taken from the colony by private hand, and for that remaining in the possession of individuals, banks, &c., at the end of 1864, would bring the total produce of the Victorian gold fields, from the first discovery of gold down to the 31st December 1864, to 33,465,427 ozs., the value of which, at a uniform rate of 4*l.* an ounce, is 133,861,708*l.*

Wool.

35. The wool† exported in 1864 has been approximately returned by the Customs as amounting to 39,407,726 lbs., valued at 3,247,128. The total quantity of wool exported from the first settlement of the colony to the 31st December 1864, was 404,960,872 lbs., valued at 28,548,543*l.*

Tallow.

36. The quantity of tallow exported in 1864 was 3,881,920 lbs., the Customs value of which was 60,230*l.* Since the first settlement of Victoria 66,595,508 lbs. of tallow have been exported, of which the Customs value was 977,380*l.*

Hides and Skins.

37. The hides and skins exported in 1864 were valued at 102,684*l.* Hides and skins to the value of 1,251,304*l.* have been exported since the first settlement of Victoria.

Shipping.

38. The shipping inwards in 1864 amounted to 1,816 vessels with an aggregate of 620,200 tons. Vessels to the number of 1,895, with a total tonnage of 641,510, were cleared outwards during the same year. The number of vessels inwards and outwards in 1864 are in excess of those in the previous year, as is also the tonnage outwards. The tonnage inwards is, however, slightly less than it was in 1863.

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* Since this was penned, a return of the total length and cost of the Government lines, including the Echuca branch, has been furnished, showing the former to be 251 miles, and the latter to have been 8,750,570*l.*, or an average of about 35,000*l.* a mile.

† The quantity of wool here given exceeds by more than a third that exported from Victoria in the previous or any other year. The estimate has therefore been referred back to the Customs, in order to ascertain whether some mistake had not been made in forming the approximation; but up to the time of going to press the Customs authorities have not authorized any change to be made in the figures. In 1863 the exports of wool were as follows: quantity, 25,572,886 lbs.; value, 2,049,491*l.*

VICTORIA.

Banks.

39. There were nine joint stock banks in Victoria in the year 1864, besides three branches of Indian banks, which commenced business in Melbourne during that year. From the sworn returns of the nine regular banks the following particulars are gained. The aggregate amount of their paid-up capital at the end of 1864 was 7,618,960*l.*, upon which the last dividend paid to shareholders was at the rate of 11$\frac{8}{9}$ per cent.; the amount of reserved profits at the time of declaring that dividend was 1,594,806*l.* The note circulation of these banks at the same date amounted to 1,306,809*l.* and their total liabilities to 9,485,163*l.*, against assets at the same date amounting to 13,433,410*l.*

Savings Banks.

40. The savings banks in Victoria are under the general control of commissioner appointed by Government, under the provisions of the Act 16 Vict., No. 37. According to the last report of the Commissioners there were, on the 30th June, 1864, eleven savings banks in Victoria, in which there were deposits amounting in the aggregate to 769,681*l.* belonging to 17,201 depositors. The amount deposited during the twelve months ending the 30th June, 1864, was 480,333*l.* and the amount withdrawn was 438,556*l.* At the end of 1864 the depositors were found to have increased to 17,460, of which 11,028 were males and 6,432 were females.

41. There are also penny savings banks in many of the principal towns, in which deposits are received from a minimum of 1*d.* to a maximum of 1*l.* These are managed by local committees, and are not under Governmental supervision. It is understood that the Government have it in contemplation to establish post office savings banks in different parts of the Colony.

Friendly Societies.

42. Returns relating to the year 1863 were received in 1864 from 155 lodges or courts begloning to friendly societies. Eighty-six of these lodges or courts were of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Manchester Unity, and 67 were of the Ancient Order of Foresters. The number of members in these lodges or courts at the beginning of 1863 was 11,614, and the number at the end of the year was 13,568. The number of cases of sickness during the year was 1,503, the number of days for which aliment was allowed was 52,190, and the number of deaths was 97. The total revenue of these societies for the year 1863 was 45,605*l.*, and the total expenditure was 31,935*l.* The assets, at date of balancing, amounted to 83,104*l.*, against liabilities, at the same date, only amounting to 400*l.* It is understood that many courts belonging to these and other friendly societies omitted to furnish returns, so that the above is not a full statement of the affairs of all the friendly societies in the Colony of Victoria.

Mortgages, Liens, &c.

43. During the year 1863, sums amounting in the aggregate to 1,665,331*l.* were lent on mortgage of land in Victoria to 2,136 individuals, and sums to the amount of 674,550 were paid off by 1,134 persons. During the same year 272 mortgages on live stock were effected and 120 were released; the sums secured on live stock amounting to 1,215,907*l.*, and the sums paid off to 773,516*l.* The liens on wool during the year numbered 186, and the releases of liens 5. The amount secured on wool was 495,623*l.*, and the amount released was 23,029*l.*

Revenue and Expenditure.

44. The total revenue of Victoria during the year 1863 was 2,979,682*l.*, and the total expenditure was 2,899,682*l.* The exact revenue and expenditure of 1864 are not yet known, as receipts and disbursements on account of that year will take place until the end of 1865. The probable amounts have, however, been estimated by the Honourable the Treasurer, and are as follow:— Probable revenue, 1864, 2,993,082*l.*, probable expenditure, 1864, 3,011,054*l.* These figures will, no doubt, be found to approximate closely to the correct ones.

Public Debt.

45. The public debt of Victoria, at the end of 1864, amounted to 8,443,970*l.*, of which 443,000*l.* was contracted to obtain funds for the construction of works to supply the city of Melbourne, its suburbs, and the town of Geelong with water; 67,800*l.* to purchase the rights and privileges of the Melbourne, Mount Alexander, and Murray River Railway Company; and 7,933,170*l.* to construct the Victorian Railways. Besides this, there were corporation bonds due by the towns of Melbourne and Geelong to the amount of 385,000, which, added to the amount of debt stated above, would make a grand total of 8,828,970*l.* due by the Colony at the end of 1864.

Pensions.

46. The number of individuals on the pension list of the Colony at the end of 1863 was 18, and the total amount of their pensions 8,129*l.*

Churches and Chapels.

47. The buildings used for public worship throughout Victoria in 1863 numbered 1,352, of which 705 were regular churches and chapels, 278 were schoolhouses, and 369 were dwellings or other edifices. The approximate number of services performed throughout the year was 110,740, the number of persons for whom accommodation was provided was 190,330, and the number usually attending was 129,510. Of the whole number of buildings used for religious services, 298 belonged to the Church of England, 191 to the Roman Catholics, 297 to the Presbyterians, 427 to the Wesleyans, 134 to other Christians, and 5 to the Jewish body.

Clergy.

48. The clergy of all denominations at the same period numbered 431, of which 109 were attached to the Church of England, 49 to the Roman Catholic Church, 101 to the Presbyterian Church, 71 to the Wesleyan Church, 96 to other Christian Churches, and 5 to the Jewish Church. Besides these, who (except the Jews, who are exempted) are regularly licensed under the Marriage Act, there are in Victoria other officials attached to some of the sects, who, without being regularly ordained, perform the functions of clergymen, and are styled lay readers, local preachers, mission agents, &c. The number of these is not known, but if it could be ascertained, it would, no doubt, be found materially to swell the ranks of religious instructors in the Colony.

Melbourne University.

49. The Melbourne University has been established since 1856, and attached are schools of law, medicine, and civil engineering. In 1864 the number of students was as follows:—Matriculated 84, non-marticulated 39; total, 123. The number of graduates were, direct 12, *ad eundem* 14; total, 26. The total receipts during the same year were 11,232*l.*, of which 9,000*l.* was derived from Government aid, 1,165*l.* from college fees, and 1,067*l.* from other sources; and the expenditure was 12,652*l.* Attached to the university is the National Museum, which contains an interesting collection of objects of natural history, and of mining models, &c. The museum was visited in 1864 by 39,641 persons. No charge is made for admission.

Schools.

50. The number of day schools returned throughout Victoria in 1863 was 1,019, of which 648 received aid from the revenue, and 371 were altogether unconnected with the State. The number of teachers or instructors was 2,063, of which 946 were males, and 1,117 were females. The average number of scholars attending was 69,619, consisting of 37,187 boys and 32,432 girls.

51. Most of the Christian denominations have Sunday schools. Returns were received in 1863 of 752 in different parts of the Colony; of these, 145 were in connexion with the Church of England, 113 with the Roman Catholics, 107 with the Presbyterians, 305 with the Wesleyans, and 82 with other denominations. The male Sunday school teachers numbered in all 2,686, and the female 2,616, or in all 5,640. The average number of scholars attending Sunday schools was 47,085, of which 19,718 were males, and 21,373 were females.

Public Libraries.

52. The Melbourne Public Library is open to all classes of persons over 14 years of age, without payment or restriction. During the year 1864 it was visited by 179,787 persons, and since it was first opened in 1856, it has received about a million and a quarter visits. The number of books in the library amount at present to 35,252, and sums varrying from 5,000*l.* to 2,000*l.* have been each year voted for additional purchases. The total amount so expended since 1853 has been 34,285*l.* Under the same roof is the National Museum of Art, which was opened on the 24th May 1861, and since then has been visited by 200,000 persons. The number of visitors in 1864 was 53,276. The total cost of the building, which is still unfinished, was, up to the end of 1864, 50,995*l.*

53. Besides the Melbourne Public Library, there is also a library containing 9,000 volumes attached to the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute, and there are libraries and mechanics' institutes in most of the principal towns. There were 23 of these institutions which furnished returns to the Registrar General in 1863, and it is known that there are others which omitted to give returns. Some of these institutions receive books on loan from the Melbourne library. The number of books in all the libraries was about 66,000 in 1863, and the total number of visitors was 326,735.

Charitable Institutions.

54. Charitable institutions in Victoria are supported partly by the State, and partly by the efforts of private individuals. There were at the end of 1863, 22 hospitals in the Colony, which made up 1,123 beds in 118 wards. The number of patients during 1863 were, in-door 7,529, out-door 29,035. Their total receipts in the year amounted to 83,010*l.*, of which 18,230*l.* were from private contributions. The expenditure of hospitals during the year was 73,014*l.*

55. Of benevolent asylums, there were eight in the Colony at the end of 1863, including the Melbourne Immigrants' Home. These institutions then made up in the aggregate 1,366 beds, and 7,440 persons received indoor relief from them in the year. Their total receipts in 1863 were 46,703*l.*, of which 8,064*l.* was due to private effort. Their expenditure amounted to 42,519*l.* in the year 1863.

56. There are two Protestant and two Roman Catholic Orphan Asylums in Victoria, situated in the towns of Melbourne and Geelong. These institutions contain accommodation for 505 children, and 580 passed through them in 1863. In that year their receipts were, from Government 9,938*l.*, from private sources 3,673*l.*; total 13,611*l.* Their expenditure in 1863 amounted to 13,351*l.*

57. The Government Lunatic Asylum at the Yarra Bend makes up 856 beds, and 1,030 patients passed through it in 1863. The receipts in the year amounted to 31,198*l.*, and the expenditure to 30,497*l.*

Wages and Prices.

58. The rates of wages in Victoria, although lower than they were during the period immediately succeeding the gold discoveries, are still high as compared with those ruling in older countries. Farm labourers, with board and lodging, now receive from 12*s.* to 18*s.* weekly, and good ploughmen from 15*s.* to 1*l.* Shepherds, with rations and a hut to live in, receive from 30*l.* to 40*l.* annually; stock

VICTORIA.

keepers from 40*l.* to 70*l.*; hut keepers about five pounds a year less than shepherds; generally, useful men on stations from 14*s.* to 18*s.* weekly; and shearers from 13*s.* to 14*s.* for every 100 sheep sheared. The working day of artizans and day labourers in Victoria is only eight hours, for which, masons, bricklayers, and blacksmiths receive from 8*s.* to 10*s.* in Melbourne, carpenters from 7*s.* to 9*s.* In country districts, however, these wages rule higher, and in some places are quoted at 12*s.* all round. General labourers without rations, receive from 5*s.* to 7*s.* a day. Married couples without families, obtain ready employment at from 40*l.* to 60*l.* a year; with families it is not so easy for them to find occupation in hired service, unless their children are old enough to be useful. Female servants usually experience but little difficulty in obtaining situations—housekeepers, cooks, and laundresses at from 30*l.* to 40*l.* annually; housemaids at from 20*l.* to 25*l.*; nursemaids at from 12*l.* to 20*l.*; and generally useful servants at from 18*l.* to 30*l.*

59. The cost of living in Victoria has been much reduced of late years, and the retail prices of the necessaries of life will be found, in many instances, to be below the rates obtaining in Great Britain and Ireland. Beef and mutton of excellent quality are sold in most parts of the Colony at from 3*d.* to 5*d.* per lb., tea at from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*, coffee at 1*s.* 6*d.*, and sugar at from 4*d.* to 6*d.* Owing to the defective harvest already alluded to (p. 68), the price of flour, and consequently that of bread, was unusually high in 1864. The former, which for the three previous years averaged from 12*l.* to 15*l.* per ton, in 1864 ranged from 20*l.* to 28*l.*, and the latter, whose common price had been from 6*d.* to 9*d.* the 4lb. loaf, ranged from 9*d.* to 1*s.* Potatoes are commonly sold at rates varying from ½*d.* to 1*d.* per lb., and from 4*s.* to 8*s.* per cwt. Fruits and vegetables are plentiful, and during the proper season are sold at reasonable prices.

60. The rent of a cottage in Melbourne, suitable for a labouring man, ranges from 3*s.* to 10*s.* per week. There exists, however, a great desire amongst all ranks in Victoria, and particularly amongst the labouring population, to possess dwellings of their own. To aid in this object, building and other mutually co-operative societies have been established in most parts of the Colony, and through their intervention, numbers, by making small monthly payments, are enabled in a few years to become freeholders at little more cost to themselves than if they had been paying rent throughout the period.

Vital Statistics.

61. The birth rate in Victoria during 1864 was as 43 to every 1,000 of the living mean population (588,881), the death rate was 15·63 per 1,000, and the marriage rate 7·69 per 1,000. In England, during a series of years, the average birth, death, and marriage rates were respectively 34·06, 22·29, and 8·26 per 1,000. The birth and death rates in the Colony are thus found to compare favourably with those in England, the one being higher and the other lower here than there; but a less favourable result is shown by the marriage rate, which is not so high in Victoria as it is in England. The birth rate in Victoria has remained nearly stationary for some years past; the death rate has declined, and in 1864 was lower than it had been in any year since 1856. The marriage rate has not changed during the past two years, but down to 1863 its decline had been rapid and continuous since 1854, in which year the proportion of marriages was as high as 14·08 to every 1,000 persons living.

TASMANIA.

No. 19.

TASMANIA.

No. 19.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor T. GORE BROWNE, C.B., to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, &c., &c., &c.

(No. 96.) Government House, Hobarton,

SIR, Tasmania, October 15, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of Statistical Returns of the Colony of Tasmania for the ten years ending in 1863, which have been carefully prepared by Mr. J. E. Calder, the Surveyor General.

These statistics exhibit clearly the stimulus given by the discovery of gold in the neighbouring Colonies, culminating in 1854, and the gradual decline in material prosperity consequent on the diminished product of the gold fields.

Exports and imports, trade, shipping, banking returns, insolvencies and revenue (general and from land) all show their relation to and dependence on the state of the gold trade.

It will also be seen that, with exception of the years 1858 and 1859, the Expenditure has been too generally in excess of the Revenue. I trust, however, the finances are now placed on a more satisfactory footing, and that in future the receipts will be in excess of the expenditure.

There is also a gratifying improvement in Education, and a marked decrease in Crime.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. GORE BROWNE.

SIR, Macquarie Street, 26th August, 1864.

IN COMPLIANCE with the request contained in your note of the 20th instant, that I would, at my own leisure, prepare a Return exhibiting the condition of Tasmania for several years past, I have now the pleasure of handing you the accompanying document.

In compiling such a Return as I thought would best meet your wishes, I have not gone further back into the Statistics of the Colony than ten years, because the published records of an earlier date are often somewhat confused, even in important particulars; indeed, even in times so recent as 1855 and 1856, the Trade Returns of the Colony are meagre and unsatisfactory, and unfit for use where details are required.

The Return now handed you is divided into eleven principal compartments; namely,—

1. Population.
2. Lands.
3. Live Stock.
4. Trade, including the Exports of the chief articles produced on our own lands exclusively.
5. Shipping employed in the Trade of the Colony, and Shipping belonging to the Colony.
6. Revenue and Expenditure, with a full detail of transactions in Debentures.
7. Banking Returns.
8. Insolvencies.
9. Education.
10. Crime.
11. Post Office transactions.

I beg to offer the following remarks on each of the above subjects, taking them as they stand in the above enumeration.

1. *Population.*

The most noticeable feature in the first division of the Return is the slow increase of Population, occasioned in part by the drain it has sustained by departures exceeding arrivals, and in part by the declension of marriages.

The total ten years' increase of our population has been 26,645 persons, or 29·11 per cent.; while in South Australia, whose condition somewhat more nearly resembles our own than any other of the Australian Colonies, the increase in the last ten years for which its accounts have been published has been at the rate of 43·80 per cent.: but as these accounts come down no further than 1862, no very exact comparison between the two countries can be made; still, as there has been no disturbing cause to affect increase there, which has not operated here also, a tolerably fair approximate comparison may be instituted.

The loss that the Colony has sustained since the beginning of 1854 on account of departures exceeding arrivals has been 3028 persons; which has all accrued to us in the last three years, for there was a small balance in our favour in the preceding seven years, namely of 208. Indeed, the decrease by emigration has never been so large as many persons have thought, its place having been pretty well supplied by immigration. Since the first great discovery of gold in California* in 1848, though 111,512 persons have left us, 104,014 have arrived,—the difference being 7598: and if this includes "Military† and their families" (about which I am not certain), of whom more than 2000 have left since January, 1848, the loss will be reduced to about 5000, as it is not possible to class them as belonging to the population proper of the Colony.

Marriages are now hardly half of what they were ten years ago, though it will be observed that there was a moderate increase of them in 1863 above the number of the preceding year. That there were less births last year than in the one before seems but a natural consequence of the decrease in the marriages of previous years. Births it will be seen almost exactly double the deaths, the number registered in ten years being respectively 30,727 and 15,351.

2. *Lands.*

The number of acres that have passed into private possession since the beginning of 1854 has been 613,298,—a rate of progression which would require well near two centuries and a half to exhaust our stock of lands on hand; and even calculating it by the sales we have effected since the passing of "The Waste Lands Act" in 1858 (which has so simplified the process of obtaining land), still 172 years must pass before the public estate would be wholly disposed of.

The number of new homesteads that have been established on lands sold under the Act referred to is believed to be about 800.

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* 694 persons departed for California in 1850. The numbers who left for that place in preceding years are merged in the departures for America.

† According to a Return obligingly furnished me from the local branch of the Adjutant-General's Office, in March, 1863, it appears that 1959 persons of this class were withdrawn from the Colony since January, 1848. Some few hundreds have left since, but of whose numbers I have no information.

TASMANIA.

3. *Live Stock.*

The numerical state of the Stock on the pastures of the Colony, though a little fluctuating in different years, has been on the whole very unprogressive,—not only during all the years for which this table is made up, but for several years before when the number of sheep in the Colony was generally more numerous than now, and of cattle not much less. But in those columns which show the state of imports and exports very gratifying facts are disclosed; namely, that of those kinds of Stock of which we have been always large importers our purchases are so diminishing that the date of the extinction of this branch of our trade may be pretty safely foretold. Of horses, the export column shows each year an increasing activity.

4. *Trade of the Colony.*

The Foreign Trade of the Colony, which has been progressively descending ever since 1854, took an upward direction last year,—the increase in the value of imports and exports being represented by the very respectable sum of £125,379, for the details of which I must refer to the Annual Statistics.

In this compartment of the Return, I have introduced the exports of the chief articles of farm and forest produce actually grown or manufactured in the Colony, eleven in number. Reducing this number, for the present only, to ten, by the exclusion of wool (to be treated of separately), it will be gratifying to notice that the sales of eight out of the ten are largely increasing, the exceptional articles being wheat and oats, which last year declined by 84,389 and 101,525 bushels respectively,—the arithmetical rate of decrease being 46 and 34 per cent. But our most recent sales of flour, potatoes, fruit jams, hay, bark, timber, and dairy produce have all increased very much, not only on the sales of the preceding year, but (timber excepted) on all others for six or seven years back. Restricting our comparisons, however, to the last two years, as presently most interesting to us, it will be found that our export of flour has advanced by 1171 tons or 29 per cent.; potatoes by 4862 tons or 63 per cent.; fruit by 8256 bushels; jams by 2987 packages*; hay by 510 tons; and bark by 180 tons. Of timber and dairy produce (each made up of more than one article not reducible to a single denomination), I have been obliged to take value in place of quantity, and each of these it will be seen show respectable increases.

Of wool there appears to have been a lesser export in 1863 than in the year before, but in the case of this article the statistical figures that represent the annual export do not necessarily represent the yearly clip, which would also be the yearly export if we made up our Returns as they are made up in the other Colonies of Australia, where the statistical year commences on the 1st of April, which prevents confusion in the wool accounts. To illustrate this part of my subject I cannot do better than quote from an official document printed in July, 1861:—

"It is much to be regretted that, owing to a mistaken method adopted in the compilation of our Agricultural Statistics, it is not possible to ascertain the true yearly produce of wool. This is caused by adapting the statistical to the ordinary year; an arrangement wholly unsuited to the southern hemisphere, or at any rate in so far as it relates to this great article of trade. The operations of shearing, pressing, and transporting to the places of shipment are never finished throughout the Colony until the year of produce is past. Hence a large but ever varying proportion of the clip of every season, not reaching the coast till the beginning of the year after it was cut, passes the Customs, and thus runs into the returns of the wrong year. Thus a late shearing one year, followed by an early one next, necessarily confuses the account, and large quantities of the produce of two years then find their way into the Registers of one only."

* * * "This incongruity would never appear in the records of agricultural trade if the accounts of the exports of this article were made up as they are in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, where the statistical year commences on the 1st of April."

In following this subject I have referred to the *Gazettes* of this year, where the exports of each month are reported, and find that 4,281,651 lbs. of wool were shipped during the first five months; which must have been the produce and growth of last season, just as part of the recorded exports of 1863 were the growth and produce of the year before.

5. *Shipping employed in the Trade of the Colony, and Shipping belonging to the Colony.*

The Shipping Returns, which have exhibited a progressive decline since 1857, showed a sensible increase last year, as should indeed be expected from an increased trade. Vessels clearing wtih cargoes were greater in their aggregate tonnage than in any year since 1858. That the entries without cargoes should outnumber those of other years, is

* This increase in our export of Jams has even attracted some notice from the London press. The following is from the "Illustrated London News" of the 11th of June last:—"Four firms in Tasmania made, last year, 360 tons of Jam for exportation."

but a natural consequence of our recent export transactions with New Zealand and Queensland; both of which (and particularly the former) receive very considerable supplies from hence, but send us almost nothing in return. The value of our exports thitherward in 1863 were rated at 276,372*l.*, and the imports hence at 4,888*l.* only.

The number and tonnage of vessels belonging to the Colony is not exactly represented by the figures in the compartment headed "Shipping belonging to the Colony," on account of vessels lost, or supposed to be lost, but of which "no official notification has been received which would empower the taking them off the list."

The number of vessels belonging to the Ports of Hobart Town and Launceston believed to have foundered is tabled in the Statistics of 1862 as twenty-one, of an aggregate tonnage of 2583; whereof the large proportion of sixteen (of 2386 tons) belonged to Hobart Town.

6. *Revenues, Expenditure, and Debentures.*

The figures that represent the annual revenues and expenditure require no explanations, nor those of the Return showing the transactions of the Government in Debentures, further than these, that I have given the account of the latter as it has been furnished to me by the Treasury, that is made up to the 23rd instant; and that the total amounts disposed of up to this date have been worth 778,018*l.*, whereof 280,280*l.* worth has been redeemed.

7. *Banking Returns.*

The revival of trade in 1863 as shown by the Return, accompanied as it has been by a diminution of coin in the Colony and of deposits in the Banks, seeming to be an anomaly, I applied to the Managers of the Banks in this City to ascertain the causes that had led to this declension. They kindly undertook to explain what I thought was a contradiction of facts. They informed me that these decreases were quite compatible with an improving state of trade. The disappearance of much of the bullion held in the Colony in former years, they said, was chiefly caused by the English Banks; which, finding there was far too much in the Colony in proportion to the liabilities of these establishments, gradually withdrew it. Hence the progressive decline shown in the Table. They also told me that large sums, the property of private individuals, had been sent out of the Colony for investment in public and government securities, which also reduced deposits; and that these latter had sustained a further decline by withdrawals made from the Banks for the purchase of Debentures in this Colony. The stock of coin, it was said, was further decreased by the paying off of considerable mortgages held by capitalists in England. These gentlemen were unanimous in the expression of a belief that trade was never, within their knowledge, in a sounder state than it is at present.

8. *Insolvencies.*

Under the head of Insolvencies there was a great decrease last year on all former ones; the loss to the Creditors, as represented by the difference between liabilities and assets, was never so small as in 1863.

9. *Education.*

In this branch there was one School, and two hundred and twenty-eight scholars less than in the preceding year as calculated on the "daily attendance" statement, or about 6·24 per cent. The cost for the year was marked by something like a corresponding decrease. I do not know to what cause this may be imputed, but the increasing emigration of late years may have had something to do with it.

10. *Crime.*

Under none of the various headings of this Table is there any increase of crime, at least during the last four years; and it is gratifying to notice that the general total of the year 1863 is less than it ever was during the term for which the Table is made up.

11. *Post Office Transactions.*

These Returns, taken as a whole, evince no great progression in the letter correspondence of the Colony, though last year there was an increase of 5·7 per cent. on the letters received in Hobart Town and Launceston on the year before, and of 13 per cent. on newspapers dispatched from the same places. There was also a goodly increase in the "Penny Post;" but in the two remaining transactions of letters sent and newspapers received, there has been a small decline. The cost of the Office was much less last year than in preceding years.

TASMANIA.

It is not necessary for me to prolong this letter, especially as comments or opinions are not expected in a paper which is necessarily only one of explanations. I shall, therefore, conclude without further remark.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. E. CALDER.

The Honourable Charles Meredith, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the Condition of TASMANIA during the past Ten Years.

No. 1.—POPULATION OF THE COLONY.

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Arrivals.	Departures.	Total Population, exclusive of Military.
1854	2,603	1,343	1,928	9,525	11,280	64,874
1855	2,948	1,257	1,692	10,887	7,055	69,977
1856	2,956	933	1,335	4,956	7,636	No Return.
1857	3,246	897	1,418	6,063	5,231	82,997
1858	3,138	779	1,562	4,003	4,496	84,048
1859	3,244	706	1,410	2,975	2,921	85,968
1860	3,238	689	1,749	3,432	3,014	87,775
1861	3,207	717	1,477	3,684	4,861	90,211
1862	3,149	636	1,362	3,174	4,444	90,728
1863	2,998	698	1,418	3,621	4,410	91,519

No. 2.—LANDS.

Years.	In Private Possession.	Alienated.	Cultivated.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1854	2,774,877	35,934	127,732
1855	2,801,555	26,678	153,127
1856	2,815,660	14,104	185,519
1857	2,824,707	9,048	205,873
1858	2,871,817	47,109	229,489
1859	2,931,162	76,345	208,619
1860	3,037,797	89,635	218,315
1861	3,142,556	104,759	248,864
1862	3,182,759	40,203	253,050
1863	3,261,349	78,590	267,173
1864 (first 9 months)	3,352,242	90,893	

Unpaid pre-emptive Lots not included in this Table; also a (presumed) area of 6,250 acres of Town Land Grants, of which there is no perfect record.

No. 3.—LIVE STOCK.

Year.	Horses.			Horned Cattle.			Sheep.		
	In the Colony.	Imported.	Exported.	In the Colony.	Imported.	Exported.	In the Colony.	Imported.	Exported.
1854	17,384	24	554	103,752	6,681	57	1,831,308	39,369	83
1855	18,358	No Returns published.		110,304	No Returns published.		1,835,902	No Returns published.	
1856	18,019	No Returns published.		88,604	No Returns published.		1,674,987	No Returns published.	
1857	19,857	19	1,034	80,146	7,133	78	1,635,920	41,533	3,227
1858	21,563	12	734	79,460	6,625	79	1,504,393	37,658	4,698
1859	20,559	10	1,021	79,950	6,864	142	1,697,199	22,857	1,590
1860	21,034	4	1,079	83,366	5,798	17	1,700,930	43,312	152
1861	22,168	72	1,128	86,954	5,827	4	1,738,473	38,486	6,944
1862	20,742	4	1,645	83,143	5,325	78	1,661,225	22,270	6,214
1863	21,964	1	1,949	90,446	4,065	352	1,800,815	18,067	2,526

No. 4.—Trade of the Colony.

Year.	Total Imports and Exports.			Exports of Farm and Forest produce, the Growth or Manufacture of the Colony.										
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Flour.	Wheat.	Oats.	Potatoes.	Fruit.	Jams.	Hay.	Wool.	Bark.	Timber. (Value.)	Dairy Produce. (Value.)
	£	£	£	Tons.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Bushels.	Packages.	Tons.	lb.	Tons.	£	£
1854	2,604,680	1,443,021	4,037,701		Returns imperfect.		2,168	69,786	1,528	3,399	5,223,476	282	303,857	13,706
1855	1,559,797	1,428,629	2,988,426	—	—	No Returns published.			—	—	5,762,990	No Returns published.		
1856	1,442,106	1,207,802	2,649,908	—	—	No Returns published.			—	—	4,619,674	No Returns published.		
1857	1,271,087	1,354,655	2,625,742	6,389	155,414	243,911	7,397	34,748	1,878	1,683	5,251,584	1,277	133,773	12,212
1858	1,328,612	1,151,609	2,480,221	4,736	226,268	302,491	4,699	121,156	960	1,790	4,755,318	254	109,811	6,702
1859	1,163,907	1,193,898	2,357,805	4,267	186,403	427,597	8,646	91,487	1,035	587	6,107,903	982	84,122	12,782
1860	1,068,411	962,170	2,030,581	1,990	156,043	546,590	7,002	106,787	1,568	146	4,537,915	1,362	73,535	6,830
1861	953,517	905,463	1,858,980	2,827	230,398	483,152	8,337	118,703	1,666	466	4,103,369	616	55,850	11,294
1862	857,423	919,649	1,777,072	3,980	182,913	294,730	7,753	136,715	4,563	1,435	5,241,650	963	66,659	14,060
1863	902,940	999,511	1,902,451	5,158	98,524	193,205	12,615	144,971	7,450	1,945	4,665,594	1,143	70,521	19,130

No. 5.—Shipping employed in the Trade of the Colony, and Shipping belonging to the Colony.

Year.	Shipping employed in the Trade of the Colony.												Shipping belonging to the Colony.			
	Entries.						Departures.						Number and Tonnage of Vessels registered as belonging to the Colony.		Number and Tonnage of Vessels registered as built in the Colony.	
	Vessels with Cargoes.		Vessels in Ballast.		Total Vessels entered.		Vessels with Cargoes.		Vessels in Ballast.		Total Vessels departed.					
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
1854	No Returns published.			—	1,057	198,612	No Returns published.				1,028	200,398	I have no perfect Returns for this year.			
1855	No Returns published.			—	855	161,212	No Returns published.				871	159,258	243	26,845	6	270
1856	No Returns published.			—	934	157,826	No Returns published.				945	156,396	237	26,071	5	195
1857	658	112,706	363	41,282	1,021	164,008	908	136,379	124	30,679	1,032	167,058	230	25,045	6	192
1858	653	116,551	320	31,396	973	147,947	840	116,990	145	29,874	985	146,864	240	25,109	4	128
1859	572	98,397	263	22,509	835	120,906	753	101,722	104	23,357	857	125,089	239	24,473	6	516
1860	584	97,189	222	18,983	806	116,172	718	97,508	100	20,735	818	118,243	231	22,692	4	68
1861	573	94,420	207	19,190	780	113,610	720	99,839	80	16,859	800	116,698	223	22,913	5	371
1862	443	81,048	281	26,619	734	107,664	686	92,704	68	16,211	754	108,915	226	23,204	10	473
1863	417	76,978	356	40,703	775	117,681	722	105,308	48	10,835	770	116,143	249	25,283	5	243
													First 8 months, 1864 - -		15	458

No. 6.—REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, AND DEBENTURES.

Revenue.									Expenditure.									Debentures sold.										
Year.	General.			Land.			Total.			General.			Land.			Total.			No. sold.	Nominal Value.			Amount realized.			Discount on the Year.		Premium on the Year.	
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.				
1854	222,699	10	8	113,208	18	2	335,908	8	10	244,895	1	5	82,580	15	9	327,475	17	2	No Debentures sold in these years.										
1855	207,606	19	5	84,257	9	6	291,864	8	11	302,496	14	11	58,344	16	8	360,841	11	7											
1856	187,967	3	2	58,372	11	6	246,339	14	8	The General and Land Expenditure						440,687	19	2	1173	117,300	0	0	117,916	5	6	—		0·52	
1857	177,987	14	4	63,608	6	0	241,596	0	4	consolidated in these years.						297,360	1	4	1921	209,980	0	0	205,911	0	0	1·93			
1858	195,795	17	7	75,490	9	2	271,286	7	0	203,767	19	1	37,057	10	8	240,825	9	9	1087	132,380	0	0	132,380	0	0				
1859	186,320	4	3	79,957	19	2	266,278	3	5	187,715	14	7	61,415	1	7	249,130	16	2	287	47,500	0	0	47,500	0	0				
1860	180,516	12	7	83,051	1	1	263,567	13	8	224,244	11	5	50,910	11	4	275,155	2	9	498	55,400	0	0	55,574	0	0	—		0·31	
1861	171,462	19	2	85,495	7	5	256,958	6	7	211,161	11	6	99,044	11	8	310,206	3	2	435	58,500	0	0	58,945	0	0	—		0·76	
1862	189,384	11	2	67,187	8	10	256,572	0	0	216,324	19	1	77,675	5	9	294,000	4	10	494	107,100	0	0	107,522	0	0	—		0·39	
1863	183,435	11	10	69,053	9	7	252,489	1	5	191,053	17	4	53,093	0	7	244,146	17	11	173	32,600	0	0	33,096	0	0	—		1·52	
																Up to 23 August 1864		-	83	17,800	0	0	18,174	0	0	—		2·10	

No. 7.—BANKING RETURNS.

Years.	Coin and Bullion in the Colony.	Deposits.	Assets.	Liabilities.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1854	1,035,368 17 3	No Return.	2,409,845 12 11	1,900,777 19 0
1855	685,586 9 9	No Return.	2,274,287 0 0	1,718,899 0 0
1856	507,914 0 0	No Return.	2,047,580 0 0	1,334,383 0 0
1857	521,211 14 5	1,205,264 8 4	2,019,873 18 6	1,365,844 10 0
1858	363,748 18 8	1,051,531 9 0	1,872,297 19 9	1,195,588 14 3
1859	287,443 11 10	991,276 3 7	1,903,241 17 3	1,132,590 7 5
1860	299,200 3 0	814,315 13 10	1,842,163 0 1	949,016 10 6
1861	223,328 8 1	729,085 2 0	1,567,289 5 1	846,628 1 5
1862	199,609 1 0	734,169 7 1	1,502,120 15 3	838,294 2 9
1863	164,494 7 0	722,846 1 1	1,416,268 10 0	826,908 13 10

This Return is taken from the official Statistics, but does not quite agree with Returns showed me at some of the Banks.

No. 8.—INSOLVENCIES.

Year.	No.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Loss.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1854	43	41,398 6 6	99,406 13 3	58,007 6 9
1855	113	100,558 3 5	128,959 4 10	28,401 1 5
1856	136	107,162 15 5	243,815 14 11½	136,653 19 6½
1857	140	55,962 4 7	97,960 6 0	41,998 1 5
1858	157	44,212 18 0	131,695 3 8	87,482 5 8
1859	141	91,618 13 9	130,445 17 4	38,827 3 7
1860	172	66,410 15 2	198,489 4 1	132,078 8 11
1861	155	84,409 16 5	173,932 11 8	89,522 15 2
1862	106	75,043 8 0	163,587 4 6	88,543 16 6
1863	65	17,639 9 6	40,376 14 2	22,736 4 8

No. 9.—EDUCATION.

Years.	Schools under the Board of Education.			
	No. of Schools.	Scholars, Average on Rolls during the Year.	Scholars, Average Daily Attendance.	Cost of the Schools to the Goverment.
				£ s. d.
1854	50	2734	2024	6,320 17 7
1855	61	3379	2444	11,204 18 5
1856	78	3662	2628	12,194 0 2
1857	72	3601	2640	10,858 19 2
1858	71	3665	2725	12,324 4 5
1859	80	3948	2950	14,011 17 6
1860	85	4324	3077	13,762 19 8
1861	88	4485	3336	11,732 16 9
1862	89	5084	3654	11,874 12 4
1863	88	4607	3426	11,484 16 0

The numbers of Schools and Scholars attending, &c. are taken from the Parliamentary Paper No. 12 of 1863; and the cost of the same was supplied by the Treasury.

TASMANIA.

No. 10.—CRIME (CONVICTIONS).

Years.	Tried at the Supreme Court.			Tried at Quarter Sessions and Recorder's Court.			Grand Total.
	Felonies.	Misdemeanors.	Total.	Crimes against the Person.	Crimes against Property.	Total.	
1854	98	7	105	34	128	162	267
1855	97	16	113	53	179	232	345
1856	65	6	71	38	86	124	195
1857	61	21	82	22	58	80	162
1858	113	37	150	6	22	28	178
1859	121	29	150	12	22	34	184
1860	97	43	140	9	19	28	168
1861	77	20	97	11	19	30	127
1862	81	24	105	7	30	37	142
1863	75	16	91	7	24	31	122

No. 11.—POST OFFICE TRANSACTIONS.

Years.	Post Offices and Receiving Houses.	Persons employed.	Miles of Post Roads.	Letters sent from Hobart Town and Launceston.	Letters received at Hobart Town and Launceston.	Penny Post of Hobart Town and Launceston.	Newspapers sent from Hobart Town and Launceston.	Newspapers received at Hobart Town and Launceston.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	£	£
1854	65	95	679	Returns imperfect.		64,490	Returns imperfect.		8,198	16,291
1855	67	103	679	Returns imperfect.		74,071	Returns imperfect.		9,308	18,473
1856	97	124	870	Returns imperfect.		77,217	Returns imperfect.		10,020	18,926
1857	100	124	890	348,159	367,144	68,219	1,083,208	398,353	10,431	16,995
1858	95	117	873	314,812	347,889	62,029	874,998	401,770	14,225	17,370
1859	97	119	877	332,915	358,709	64,811	822,902	317,227	11,592	15,196
1860	97	121	885	369,185	401,810	72,950	794,231	339,206	10,459	15,435
1861	100	124	895	381,391	380,659	73,823	596,844	298,812	10,590	15,266
1862	103	127	936	379,095	379,195	75,076	652,714	310,636	10,796	17,647*
1863	103	127	936	378,130	400,716	81,281	737,978	305,314	10,710	12,983

The Expenditure of 1862 includes 5,000*l.*, arrears of former years.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 20.

No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir D. DALY to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 51.)

Government House, Adelaide,
21st October, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the South Australian Blue Book for 1863.

2. The general and detailed statisticts of the Colony, which have been prepared with much care and ability by Mr. Josiah Boothby, the Government statist, are bound up with this volume, rendering a separate report from me less important, but I am desirous of calling attention to some of the evidences of progress in this interesting and prosperous Colony.

Population.

3. During 1863 the population increased by 5087 souls, from 135,329 to 140,416 persons.

4. This increase is at the rate of 3.75 per cent., of which one per cent. only is the result of Immigration, the remaining 2.75 per cent. being the natural increase, a higher rate than in either of the other Australian Colonies.

5. The proportion of the sexes has been maintained at its former favourable position of a near equality, the males slightly preponderating. Making allowance for non-registration and overland migration, the population may now be roughly estimated at 145,000 persons.

6. It is unsatisfactory, however, to observe that the returns show that during the two years and nine months passed since the last Census, the number of our people has increased only one-tenth.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

7. 5966 children were born in 1863, or 109 less than in 1862, or at the rate of 44 per 1,000 of the population; the deaths numbering 2,221, or at the rate of 16·4 in 1,000 persons.

8. Here the rate of mortality is as much lower as the birth rate is higher than in England.

9. Infantile mortality forms 46.5 per cent. of the whole, but this high rate is yearly lessening and is 6.5 per cent. below that of the previous year.

Immigration and Emigration.

10. The total arrivals by sea numbered 4,234 souls and the departures, 2,892, leaving an addition to the population of 1,342 persons, as compared with an increase of 545 persons the year before.

11. Small as this increase appears it is yet larger than in either of the four years preceding, when it only averaged 571 persons per annum. Government, assisted, and free immigration, suspended in 1860, was only resumed in October 1862, in which year two vessels brought 611 souls; in 1863 four vessels arrived landing 1,499 souls, 811 males and 688 females.

12. The rate of Government immigration is at present one ship with 350 souls per month, 500 persons if competent and industrious may be readily absorbed monthly without disturbing the labour market.

13. The provisions of Act 17 of 1862, setting aside one-third of the proceeds of the sale of waste lands for immigration purposes, and the remainder to public works, will probably have a beneficial effect in encouraging the influx of a superior class of immigrants.

Education.

14. During 1863 twenty additional schools were licensed by the Education Board, making a total of 247.

The number of scholars on the roll was 11,769,—6,510 boys and 5,259 girls, of whom about 77 per cent. were in attendance.

15. From calculations based on the Census returns, it appears that the aggregate number of children receiving instruction is one in every 7.7 of the population.

16. There were 52 district school houses erected up to the close of the year, five being completed in 1863. These buildings are erected in nearly all cases by voluntary subscriptions, supplemented by a grant from the Government.

Crime.

17. At the present juncture it is desirable to enter more fully than usual into the circumstances shown to exist by the criminal records of the Province. Although suffering indirectly from the transportation of offenders to a neighbouring Colony, this is the only community that has to some extent escaped the mischief brought upon the Australian Colonies by their being made the receptacle for the felonry of the Mother Country.

18. The exclusion of convictism being one of the main conditions in the founding of the Colony, it is not suprising that the absence of the greater evil is strongly marked by the small amount of criminality existing in South Australia as compared with the state of society presented in the older Australian colonies.

19. With the view of comparison with the statistics of New South Wales and Victoria, the number of commitments for trial is taken as the basis of the calculation.

20. The following figures show, for each of the past five years, the population, the number of commitments to the Supreme Court for trial by a jury, the number of commitments to the local courts, the total commitments for trial, and the ratio per 1,000 persons:

Year.	Population.	Commitments.			Ratio.	
		To Supreme Court.	To Local Courts.	Total.	Per 1,000.	Or
1859 - - -	122,735	168	113	281	2·289	1 in 437
1860 - - -	124,112	145	98	243	1·958	1 in 510
1861 - - -	126,830	125	120	245	1·932	1 in 522
1862 - - -	135,329	117	90	207	1·529	1 in 654
1863 - - -	140,416	125	74	199	1·388	1 in 706
		Mean of Five Years - -			1·819	1 in 566

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The number of convictions in the Supreme Court average 56 per cent. of the commitments during the above period.

21. The foregoing table exhibits a very important diminution in the amount of crime; five years ago the commitals amounted to 281, or 1 in 437 persons; last year they amounted to 199, or 1 in 706 persons, and it will be observed that the reduction has been gradual and continuous, and does not appear to be the result of exceptional circumstances.

It may be stated also, that the rate for the two past years is lower than the average rate in England.

22. More interest attaches to a comparison with the state of things existing in the neighbouring Colonies, for it is found that the commitments per 1,000 persons, as shown by the latest statistics, are in

New South Wales, 1858–62	2·317, or 1 in 433 persons
Victoria, 1859–62	2·398, or 1 in 423 „
South Australia, 1859–63	1·819, or 1 in 566 „

In other words, there is one-third less crime in South Australia than in the two other Colonies.

23. With respect to the nature of crime a still more favourable comparison could be drawn, serious offences being comparatively unknown in this Colony, for instance, out of 680 convictions in the Supreme Court during the past ten years, 102 only were felonious offences against the person, or 10 per annum.

In the same period but three white persons suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

24. With reference to the number of persons apprehended by the police, it is curious to notice that the number taken into custody in New South Wales and Victoria is about 1 in every 19 persons, here it is but 1 in 70, on an average of years.

25. The conclusions to be drawn from the foregoing facts are unmistakable, and justify the intense and increasing hostility to transportation to any part of Australia, which this Colony exhibits.

Revenue and Expenditure.

26. The Revenue for 1863 amounted to 631,700*l.* against 548,709*l.* in 1862, an increase of 15 per cent.

The expenditure in either year was 635,205*l.* and 579,381*l.* respectively.

The ordinary Revenue amounted to 394,538*l.*, and the Land Fund receipts to 237,162*l.*

27. Taxation is confined to the item Customs, and may be taken at 27*s.* per head, a very much lower rate than in either of the other Australian Colonies.

28. During the past ten years the whole of the receipts accruing from the sale and leasing of the waste lands, and 16 per cent over and above, has been appropriated out of the Ordinary Revenue, to the prosecution of public works and to immigration purposes.

29. In fact one-fourth more than the whole sum received from the sale of Crown Lands has been devoted during this period to the improvement of the public property, and the introduction of labour.

Loans for Public Works.

30. The public credit of South Australia stands high in the estimation of the monetary world, the result of caution displayed by the Legislature in restricting the use of borrowed money to the formation of reproductive public works, and in supplement to sums set apart from the General Revenue.

31. Bonds representing the sum of 1,054,700*l.* have been issued since the first loan was contracted in 1854; 187,850*l.* has been paid off, leaving 866,850*l.* as the Public Debt.

32. In addition to considerable sums set apart from the Revenue, 1,028,614*l.* has been expended out of the proceeds of the loans, in the construction of the public works for which they were sanctioned, viz., Railways, Tramways, Waterworks, and Harbour Improvements.

33. Whilst Victoria owes 14*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, New South Wales 11*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, and Queensland 13*l.* 10*s.* per head of population, South Australia is indebted but 6*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*

Land and its Occupation.

34. During the year 1863, the area of country and suburban land alienated from the Crown amounted to 159,792 acres, against 129,803 acres in the previous year, making a total of 2,668,643 acres sold up to the commencement of this year (1864); or 19 acres for each individual of the population, against 18·6 in 1863, and more than twice the quantity per head in Victoria.

35. The proportion of purchased land under tillage is 20·8 per cent. or 1 in every 5 acres, comparing favourably with the previous season when it was 19·07 per cent. The

additional land in occupation formed six per cent. on the total area previously alienated from the Crown, whilst the increase on the area under cultivation is 12½ per cent over that of last year.

36. The sale of public lands continues to increase in a greater ratio than the addition to the population, and cultivation has increased at double the rate at which the purchase of land was augmented.

37. The area of inclosed land on the 31st March 1864, is returned at 2,900,291 acres against 2,105,877 acres on 31st March 1863, no less than 794,414 acres having been enclosed during the year.

38. Land under tillage in 1863–4 amounted to 555,968 acres, against 494,511 acres in the previous season, an increase of 61,457 acres or 12½ per cent.

39. There are four acres of land under cultivation for each individual of the population as compared with 3·65 acres in 1862–3. To show the relative value of these figures, it may be stated that in Victoria and New South Wales, the ratio is but four-fifths of an acre per head, so that the area of our land under cultivation as compared with our population, is five times greater than in the neighbouring Colonies-

40. Sixty per cent. of the total land cultivated was under wheat, 335,758 acres being reaped, against 320,160 acres in the previous season, an increase of 15,598 acres, or five per cent. The wheat harvest produced 4,691,919 bushels against 3,841,824 bushels in the preceding season, showing an increase of 850,095 bushels, or 22 per cent.

41. The cultivation of the vine continues to exhibit marked progress, 1,002 additional acres, or one-fourth more being returned this season, making a total of 5,779 acres under vines. The plants in bearing number 3,848,016, or 918,260 additional, those not in bearing number 3,316,484, or an increase of 395,543; considerably more than one-half of the vines planted are productive.

An increase of more than one-fourth also appears in the quantity of wine made, the vintage having given 606,365 gallons, against 472,797 gallons the previous season, or 133,568 gallons additional.

42. About 60,000 square miles of country is in pastoral occupation. The area held under 14 years' leases now current, although there were in addition, upwards of 500 applications for leases yet unprepared, is 31,192 square miles, the difference between which quantity and the above-mentioned area of 60,000 miles is made up of the area of the lands held at present only under pastoral claims, and by the unpurchased land in counties, amounting to nearly 23,202 square miles.

43. The returns of live stock show an augmentation in the number of horses, sheep, and lambs, but a diminution in the number of horned cattle.

44. The number of horses has increased from 56,251 to 59,008. Of horned cattle there is a decrease of 32,176, or from 258,342 head to 226,166 head.

45. The total increase in the province of sheep and lambs during the year was 460,642, or 13⅓ per cent., against an increase of 392,644, or 12½ per cent. the year before. At the close of the year, 3,891,642 sheep were depastured, as compared with 3,431,000 at its commencement.

165,267 sheep were exported overland to the neighbouring Colonies during 1863, 130,000 passing into New South Wales, and 35,267 into Victoria. The number exported during the first quarter of the current year, up to which the stock returns are made, was 102,415, and the arrivals 43,386, leaving an excess of exports of 59,029 sheep.

46. The South Australian flocks being free from scab, large purchases have been made here for squatters in the adjoining Colonies stocking new country.

Imports and Exports.

47. The combined import and export trade amounted in 1863 to 4,387,096*l.*, an increase of 10 per cent. The imports amounted to 2,028,279*l.*, and the exports to 2,145,796*l.*

48. The staple produce of the colony shipped, amounted to over two millions sterling, or five-sixths of the total exports, and exceeds the value of goods imported and retained for home consumption by 330,538*l.*, or by nearly one-fifth.

49. The expansion of trade in 1863 was most satisfactory, our commercial relations being extended in many directions, but especially with India, Cape of Good Hope, and New Zealand.

Exports of Produce.

50. The three great staples, wheat, wool, and copper, were shipped in almost equal proportions.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

51. Ten years ago our exports of produce amounted to 694,422*l.*, they now reach 2,095,356*l.* In 1854 they were at the rate of 8*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* per head, and in 1863 at the rate of 15*l.* per head of the population.

52. By the Census of 1861 it was ascertained that the number of males of 14 years of age and upwards formed one-third of the whole population. Taking this class to represent the physical strength of the people, it will be found that South Australia, whilst supporting a larger proportion of the dependent classes than in either of the neighbouring Colonies, was enabled in 1863 to produce sufficient for its own necessities, and to export a surplus, equivalent to 45*l.* per man; our neighbours, notwithstanding their large production of gold, exporting less than 40*l.* per man.

Cereal Produce,

53. Worth three-quarters of a million was exported during the twelvemonths, an increase of 113,875*l.* 60,434 tons of wheat and flour were sent away, or 9,432 tons more than in 1862.

This quantity is double that shipped five years ago, and six-and-a-half times greater than it was in 1854.

South Australia maintains her position as the granary of Australasia, and appears likely to continue her pre-eminence in this respect.

Wool.

54. The immense development in the production of wool during the past 10 years is shown by the fact, that the South Australian clip in 1854 weighed only three-and-a-half million pounds; it now weighs over fifteen-and-a-half millions.

It doubled itself in the first half of the decade, and doubled itself again in the second half.

55. The total number of bales shipped in 1863 was 48,226, an increase of 5,523 bales; this is inclusive of 3,238 bales brought down the River Murray and from Western Australia. The last clip was of the declared value here of 715,935*l.*

56. The average weight of the fleece is 4 lbs., the greater portion being shipped in grease; this is equal, if not greater, than the average weight in either New South Wales or Victoria, and is double that of Queensland.

Minerals.

57. The mines of South Australia have yielded during the last 10 years about 4,000,000*l.* sterling; at the present time the annual production is over 540,000*l.* sterling.

Nearly all the copper is shipped in the refined state, smelting operations being conducted on a very large scale within the Colony. 96,039 cwts. were sent away in 1863, an increase of 10,167 cwts. on the previous year's shipment.

Nearly one-half of the fine copper is taken by India.

Miscellaneous Products.

58. A variety of raw and manufactured products are exported besides the three great staples, amounting in 1863, to the value of 89,912*l.* sterling.

59. Some of the items are small at present, but their existence indicates a desire to husband our resources, and the growth of new industries hereafter to add materially to the wealth of the colonists.

60. The most important amongst the new exports is the shipment of South Australian wine, amounting to 27,705 gallons, against 20,574 gallons in the previous year; the demand for home consumption and for stock is so large that the quantity shipped away forms but a very small per-centage on the annual production of our vineyards, about 600,000 gallons.

River Murray Trade.

61. The trade of the River Murray, although in its infancy, is steadily increasing, and is likely to extend very greatly, as the immense pastoral country, intersected by navigable streams opened to commerce by South Australian enterprise for a distance of over 4,000 miles, becomes settled and stocked with the flocks now rapidly being placed on their banks and in the back-country.

62. In 1863 the trade amounted to 142,602*l.*, against 115,769 in 1862; the number of clearances (steamers) from the Goolwa was 19 of 3,372 tons.

Shipping.

63. Four hundred and forty vessels arrived in South Australian ports in 1863, of a total capacity of 127,667 tons, an increase of 66 ships, and in tonnage one-fifth.

64. We despatched 446 vessels to 15 different countries, providing all but 7 per cent. with cargoes, the arrivals in ballast being 10 per cent.

65. The chief increase has been with the neighbouring Colonies; the export of cereals alone, about 1,200 tons weekly, providing freight for a large fleet of vessels.

66. Besides Port Adelaide there are seven other ports on the coast from which vessels depart for other countries.

67. Eighty vessels, of which 11 are steamers, belong to the Port of Adelaide; their registered tonnage is 9,386 tons.

Internal Communication.

68. The railway traffic returns exhibit satisfactory progress. Since the line from the Port to Kapunda, 57 miles in length, was completed (in 1860), the receipts (after deducting goods agency) have increased from 55,000*l.* to 70,000*l.* per annum.

The expenditure was, in 1860, 78 per cent., and last year 74 per cent. of the revenue.

69. Twenty-two miles of main road were finished in 1863, making the total length of macadamised main road completed to the close of 1863, 258 miles, of which 220 have been formed during the last 10 years:

70. The amount defrayed from the General Revenue in their construction and maintenance being 754,324*l.*

71. In addition, about 350,000*l.* has been spent by local bodies in improving district roads since 1857, the amount being raised by local rates supplemented from the General Revenue.

Post Office and Telegraph.

72. There are 189 post offices, of which 12 were opened in 1863.

The length of mail routes was extended from 2,571 to 2,882 miles.

The additional accommodation provided can best be estimated by a statement of the mileage travelled, this having increased from 553,800 to 657,772 miles. The post office income (19,019*l.*) in 1863, nearly equalled the expenses (19,694*l.*)

73. Forty money order offices in connexion with the postal and telegraph departments are in correspondence with the offices in the United Kingdom, and with 171 offices in the neighbouring Colonies.

74. The cost of English mail subsidy is not included in the above expenditure, neither is the large sum for "King George's Sound Branch Service," about 15,000*l.* per annum, paid by this Colony in order to secure the advantages of its geographical position; advantages shared by the other Australian Colonies in the regular receipt of European news 48 hours sooner, and by at least one day's later transmission of Australian intelligence.

75. Telegraph stations number 38, and there are 1,064 miles of wire in operation.

86,411 messages were transmitted during the year, an increase of about one-seventh.

76. Great as are the local advantages attaching to the speediest possible communication, the importance of the telegraph in a national point of view is greatly augmented by the circumstance that our neighbours are afforded at least 48 hours earlier communication with Europe and the East, and that by means of the chain of telegraph wire extending for 5,521 miles throughout this and the neighbouring Colonies, 175 towns, of which 4 are capitals, and 25 are seaports, are placed in telegraphic communication with each other, all having been accomplished in the short space of eight years.

77. Between Port Denison in Queensland, and Port Augusta in South Australia, daily meteorological observations will be interchanged, and the movements of shipping on a coast line embracing 2,500 miles in extent, will shortly be simultaneously known in nearly every centre of population in the four Provinces.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P. (Signed) D. DALY,

&c. &c. &c. Governor.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

REPORT to the Honourable HENRY AYRES, M.L.C., Chief Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide,
August 31, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present the "Statistical Register of South Australia, for the year ended December 31, 1863," and, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, to make the following Report.

In the subjoined paragraphs I shall endeavour to bring succinctly to public view, the chief results obtainable from a careful examination of the accompanying tables, which, in themselves, afford minute detailed information on almost every subject where reliable statistics can be gathered.

Availing myself of the means thereby offered for measuring the rate of our progression with that of other communities in nearly similar circumstances, I shall show comparisons with the statistics of other Colonies, where they can be usefully instituted, thus placing the reader in a more favourable position for judging of the relative advancement of the Province in social progress and material wealth.

Population.

Upon the subject of population nothing satisfactory can be said; in every other direction, evidence of progress is apparent. In twelve months, the inhabitants of this Province have increased three and three-quarters per cent.; and, of this trifling addition, there is but one new comer in every hundred residents; the other two and three-quarters is made up by the excess of births over deaths. The actual figures are, 1,342 persons of the former, and 3,745 of the latter, making a total of 5,087 souls, of either sex, in nearly equal proportion.

	Males.	Females.	Persons.
Population on the 1st January 1863 - - - - -	69,608	65,721	135,329
Increase of population by excess of immigration over emigration (by sea) to 31st December 1863 - - - - - -	663	679	1,342
Increase by excess of births over deaths up to 31st December 1863 -	1,838	1,907	3.745
Total on 31st December 1863 - - - - -	72,109	68,307	140,416
Increase in 1863 - - - - - - - -	2,501	2,586	5,087

Although the above statement makes the population on 31st December 1863 consist of 140,416 persons, the number may now be estimated at 145,000 persons—non-registration and overland migration affecting the returns, which can only be corrected by the quinquennial census. During the two years and nine months passed since the last census, our population has increased one-tenth; while that of Queensland, the youngest Australian Colony, during the same time, has more than doubled its strength, and, by immigration, has gained 11 new arrivals, where we have added one from outward sources.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

During the year 1863, the number of births registered was 5,966, or 109 less than in the preceding year; of these, 3,018 were males, and 2,948 females. The proportion of births was 44·09 per 1,000 of the population; in England it was 37· by the latest returns.

The mortality during the past year was greater than that in the two previous years, but less than in 1860, notwithstanding the increased population—the total number of deaths being 2,221, against 1,918 the year before; the deaths of males being 1,180, and of females 1,041. The mortality in this Colony was at the rate of 16·4 in 1,000 persons; the rate in England being about 25·4 per 1,000. Among children, 1,034 died under two years of age, against 1,028 in 1862, forming 46·5 per cent. of the whole mortality; a reduction of 6·5 per cent. on the rate of infantile mortality in the previous year.

The additional deaths are, therefore, to be found distributed over the ages above infancy; and it will be found that out of the total increase of the year, viz., 303 deaths, 157, or more than one-half, were deaths of children betwen two and five years of age.

The natural increase of population by the births exceeding the deaths was 3,745 persons, or at the rate of 27 7 per 1,000 persons living at the commencement of the

year. In 1862 the augmentation was at the rate of 31· in a thousand. The rate of increase is of course much higher than in England, where it is but 11·6 per 1000; and a favourable comparison can be made with the returns of the neighbouring Colonies, for we find in New South Wales a natural increase of 24·, in Victoria of 26·, and in Queensland of 21·, to each thousand of the population.

Eleven hundred and fifty-two marriages were celebrated, against 1,189 in the previous year, a decrease of 37—but a little above the average of the preceding five years.

Immigration and Emigration.

During the year 1863 the total arrivals by sea numbered 4,234 souls, and the departures 2,892; making an addition to the population of 1,342 persons, against an increase of 545 persons in the previous year. Small as this increase appears it is yet larger than in either of the four years preceding, the addition to the population in those years by immigration only averaging 571 persons per annum.

Four Government immigrant vessels arrived during the year, landing 1,499 souls—811 males and 688 females; of whom 980 were of English, 252 Scotch, and 267 of Irish nationality. In 1862 but two immigrant ships arrived, bringing 611 souls, Government immigration having only been resumed in October of that year.

From the United Kingdom 1,765 persons arrived, and 148 departed thereto, against 972 and 256 persons respectively the year before. From British Colonies 2,417 persons arrived; and 2,744 persons, or 2327 in excess, left for those places—many for New Zealand and Melbourne. The arrivals from Foreign States numbered 52; there were no departures direct.

During the last ten years the excess of arrivals over departures has been 37,850 persons; and the number of assisted immigrants during the like period 37,504 persons. In the first half of that decade, 1854–58, the addition to the population by immigration amounted to 34,223 souls,—the number of Government immigrants being 32,390. In the last half, 1859–63, only 3,627 persons were added to the community, although 5,114 persons were introduced at the public expense. In the former quinquennial period, 641,388*l.* were expended by Government for immigration purposes; and 114,786*l.* in the latter. Recent legislation providing that one third of the proceeds of the sales of Waste Lands shall be devoted to immigration, and the remainder to public works, whilst insuring the introduction of suitable labour, will doubtless operate to encourage the influx of a healthy stream of colonists of a superior class, enable the profitable employment of capital, and furnish the Colony's chief requirement—a population somewhat commensurate with the extent of its resources.

Public Worship.

During 1863 twenty-one new places of worship were opened, providing additional accommodation for 3,997 persons, making the total number of churches and chapels to be 431, capable of seating 76,813 persons. Besides the above, 170 rooms were used for religious worship, with accommodation for 7,065 persons.

The aggregate number of places of worship used during the past year was 601, with 83,878 sittings, sufficient to accommodate at one time three-fifths of the population, or every man, woman, and child of fourteen years of age and upwards. There is one place of worship to every 233 persons.

The following figures show the progress made during the three past years:

——	1861.	1862.	1863.
Number of churches or chapels -	374	410	431
„ sittings in ditto - -	65,056	72,816	76,813
„ rooms used, &c. - -	172	172	170
„ sittings in ditto - -	5,679	5,800	7,065
Total number of places of worship -	546	582	601
„ sittings provided -	70,735	78,616	83,878

Three hundred and sixty Sunday-schools are returned, at which 21,799 scholars attended, or more than half the children between five and fifteen years of age. The number of Sunday-school teachers has increased by 177, being 3,017,—1,532 males and 1,485 females; thus giving one teacher for every seven scholars.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Education.

The Central Board of Education furnish returns showing the progress of the licensed schools conducted under their supervision. During 1863, twenty additional schools were licensed, an increase of nine per cent. on the previous year, and making the total number to be 247; of which, 24 are in the City, 14 in other municipalities, and 209 in the country districts; presided over by 164 schoolmasters, and 83 schoolmistresses.

There were 11,769 scholars on the roll, 6,510 boys, and 5,259 girls,—an increase of 352, or only three per cent. over the number of the previous year, attributed to the prevalence of an epidemic greatly affecting the attendance of the children, the average of which was 9,119 scholars; 47·7 was the average number on the roll of each school, and 37 the average attendance; the per-centage of attendants to the number on the roll being 77·5, or a little less than in 1862.

Of the children in attendance, 55·3 per cent. were boys, and 44·7 per cent. were girls; against 53·7 boys and 46·3 girls respectively.

The City schools averaged 65·2, the schools in other corporate towns 69·9, and the country schools 44·1 scholars, respectively. It is stated that the ages of the scholars at school in October last—the season of the year most favourable for the attendance of the elder children—differs but little from those of the preceding year, taken at nearly a like period.

To the whole number of scholars attending, children of six years of age and under formed 36·7 per cent; of seven to ten years inclusive, 42·6 per cent.; of eleven and twelve years, 14·5 per cent.; and of thirteen years of age and upwards, only 6·2 per cent., and of these about two-thirds were girls.

It is further stated, that from calculations based chiefly on the Census of 1861 the aggregate attendance at schools of all classes is about 18,200, or one for every 7·7 of the population.

Five additional district schoolhouses were erected and completed during 1863, making a total of 52. To aid their erection, Government has granted 9,803*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* in supplementing private subscriptions.

The customary financial returns are appended, which gives the expenditure of the Board for the year at 12,118*l.* in teachers stipends; and the aggregate amount received as fees by the teachers from the parents of the children, at 12,010*l.*; the total average cost of each child's education, during the twelve months, being returned as forty-one shillings per head.

Crime.

At the present juncture it is desirable to enter more fully than usual into the circumstances shown to exist by the criminal records of the Province. Although suffering indirectly from the transportation of offenders to a neighbouring Colony, this is the only community that has to some extent escaped the mischief wrought upon the Australian colonies by their being made the receptacle for the felonry of the Mother Country. The exclusion of convictism being one of the main conditions of the founding of the Colony, it is not surprising that the absence of the greater evil is strongly marked by the small amount of criminality existing in South Australia as compared with the state of society presented in the older Australian Colonies.

With the view of comparison with the statistics of New South Wales and Victoria, the number of commitments for trial is taken as the basis of the calculation. The following figures show, for each of the past five years, the population, the number of commitments to the Supreme Court for trial by a jury, the number of commitments to the Local Courts, the total commitments for trial, and the ratio per thousand persons.

Year.	Population.	Commitments.			Ratio.	
		To Supreme Court.	To Local Courts.	Total.	Per 1,000	Or
1859	122,735	168	113	281	2·289	1 in 437
1860	124,112	145	98	243	1·958	1 in 510
1861	126,830	125	120	245	1·932	1 in 522
1862	135,329	117	90	207	1·529	1 in 654
1863	140,416	125	74	199	1·388	1 in 706
		Mean of Five Years			1·819	1 in 566

The number of convictions in the Supreme Court average fifty-six per cent. of the commitments during the above period.

The above table exhibits a very important diminution in the amount of crime. Five years ago the committals amounted to 281, or 1 in 437 persons; last year they amounted to 199, or 1 in 706 persons; and it will be observed that the reduction has been gradual and continuous, and does not appear to be the result of exceptional circumstances. It may be stated also, that the rate for the two past years is lower than the average rate in England.

More interest attaches to a comparison with the state of things existing in the neighbouring Colonies, for we find that the commitments per thousand persons, as shown by the latest statistics, are in

New South Wales, 1858–62 - - -	2·317, or 1 in 433 persons
Victoria, 1859–62 - - - - -	2·398, or 1 in 423 „
South Australia, 1859–63 - - - -	1·819, or 1 in 566 „

In other words, there is one-third less crime in South Australia than in the two other Colonies.

With respect to the nature of crime a still more favourable comparison could be drawn, serious offences being comparatively unknown in this Colony; for instance, out of 680 convictions in the Supreme Court during the past ten years, 102 only were felonious offences against the person, or 10 per annum. In the same period but 3 white persons suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

With reference to the number of persons apprehended by the police, it is curious to notice that the number taken into custody in New South Wales and Victoria is about 1 in every 19 persons, here it is but 1 in 70, on an average of years.

The conclusions to be drawn from the foregoing facts, are unmistakeable; it is not, however, within the scope of my duties to make them.

Charitable Institutions.

During 1863, 964 patients were admitted into the Adelaide Hospital, and the whole number of cases treated was 1,083, against 842 in 1862. Of these 89 terminated fatally, and 894 patients were discharged cured or relieved, leaving 100 on the books of the establishment at the close of the year,—a less number by 19 than at its commencement. The daily average number of patients in the hospital during 1863 was 113,—70 males and 43 females,—against 106 in the preceding year.

On the 31st December last there were 191 inmates of the Lunatic Asylum,—an addition of 14 during the twelve months. The total number treated was 260; 83 fresh patients being admitted during the period,—55 males and 28 females. 49 patients were discharged —38 cured and 11 relieved; and 20 deaths occurred; leaving 110 male, and 81 female inmates. The daily average number of patients was 105 males and 78 females, as compared with 97 males and 73 females in the previous year.

In-door relief was afforded at the Destitute Asylum to the aged and infirm, sick persons, and deserted children, to the average number of 129 (or 13 more than in the year before),—68 males and 61 females, nearly half the number being children. Out-door relief was administered to 425 persons throughout the country (against 347 recipients in 1862); 28 adult males being among the number on sick certificate, and 26 adult females, the remaining 371 recipients being children, the support of whom devolves on the Government, either through the death of the husband, but more frequently by his desertion.

The expenditure on these institutions, wholly by Government, amounted in 1863 to 15,888*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.*, against 14,336*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* in the year preceding, distributed as follows:—Medical and Hospital, 6,316*l.* 8*s.*; Lunatic Asylum, 4,663*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*; and 4,907*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* for relief of the destitute poor.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue for 1863 amounted to 631,700*l.*, against 548,709*l.* in the previous year, an increase of fifteen per cent.; the expenditure in either year was 635,205*l.* and 579,381*l.* respectively. The Ordinary Revenue amounted to 394,538*l.*, and the Land Fund to 237,162*l.* Taxation being confined to the item Customs Duties,—all other sources of Revenue being in the shape of payments to the State for services directly rendered, or for value received,—it may be confidently put forth that we are the least taxed people in Australia.

During 1863 the Customs receipts amounted to 156,244*l.*; but the *ad valorem* duties taken off in 1860 were only re-imposed in June 1863; therefore to make a fair estimate, 190,000*l.* per annum (187,638*l.* Customs duties were received during the twelve months

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ending 30th June 1864) must be taken as the amount paid in taxation by the colonists —a sum equivalent to 1*l.* 7*s.* per head.

By the latest returns the rate in New South Wales was 1*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* per head; in Victoria 2*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* per head; and in Queensland 2*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* per head.

There is another point relating to Governmental Revenue and Expenditure which demands comment, and one alluded to in my last Report; viz., the misconception that has existed on the important question whether the capital of the Colony,—that is, the receipts accruing from the sale and leasing of the Waste Lands,—has been devoted fairly to the purposes orignally intended, viz., the prosecution of Public Works and the promotion of immigration. I showed then that the whole of the capital thus raised, and six per cent. of the Ordinary Revenue besides, had, during the ten years ending with 1862, been appropriated to the improvement of the public property and to the introduction of labour. The following is a similar statement for the decennial period ending with 1863:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
To defray the cost of Public Works - - - -	1,679,034	12	3
„ interest and redemption of loans for Public Works -	540,204	18	0
„ immigration - - - - -	756,175	13	2
Total expenditure on Public Works and Immigration -	2,975,415	3	5
Amount of Land Fund receipts - - - -	2,552,203	4	9
Deficiency of Land Fund receipts - -	£423,211	18	8

From which it will be seen that no less than sixteen per cent. over and above the Land Fund receipts has been set apart from the Ordinary Revenue for those purposes; the departmental charges connected with the Crown Lands, Public Works, and Immigration being defrayed from the latter source. The land sales amounted during the same period to not more than three-fourths of the total expenditure on Public Works and Immigration. Under provisions of Act No. 17. of 1862, one-third of the land sales is appropriated to the introduction of emigrants from the United Kingdom, and two-thirds to the prosecution of Public Works.

Loans for Public Works.

The Public Debt of South Australia, incurred solely for the formation of reproductive works, and supplemented from the General Revenue, at the close of 1863 amounted to 866,850*l.* sterling. Bonds representing the sum of 1,054,700*l.* have been issued since the first loan was contracted in 1854; 187,850*l.* has been paid off, leaving unredeemed the amount above stated.

In addition to considerable sums set apart from the Revenue, 1,028,614*l.* has been expended out of the proceeds of the loans, in the construction of the Public Works for which they were sanctioned, viz., Railways, Tramways, Waterworks, and Harbour Improvements. Whilst Victoria owes 14*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per head of her population, New South Wales 11*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* per head, and Queensland 13*l.* 10*s.* per head, South Australia is indebted but 6*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* for each individual of the community.

Banking.

In 1863 four Banks carried on business in Adelaide, having branches in the most important towns throughout the country. By recent legislation they are required to furnish statements of their average liabilities and assets to an uniform date, admitting of half-yearly comparisons. The following are the aggregate returns for the three half years ending 31st December 1861, 1862, and 1863 respectively:

LIABILITIES.

	1861.			1862.			1863.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Notes in circulation - - - -	238,223	8	7	228,766	7	8	232,481	18	9
Bills in circulation - - - -	9,020	3	3	9,851	7	4	7,832	7	8
Balance due to other banks - - -	33,705	14	11	17,171	12	8	24,904	5	0
Deposits - - - - -	743,737	10	5	703,035	11	3	787,104	2	11
Total average liabilities - -	1,024,686	17	2	958,824	18	11	1,052,322	14	4

ASSETS.

	1861.			1862.			1863.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Coin and bullion	338,255	19	11	270,433	13	7	326,875	11	8
Government securities	4,600	0	0	4,600	0	0	4,600	0	0
Landed property and bank premises	52,534	8	10	56,461	1	11	55,185	11	10
Notes and bills of other banks	12,824	12	3	9,268	15	2	7,170	3	10
Balances due from other banks	28,651	6	1	47,244	0	0	82,561	5	9
Notes and bills discounted, and other debts due to banks not enumerated	1,432,201	18	3	1,542,906	19	0	1,603,564	12	11
Total average assets	1,869,068	5	4	1,930,914	9	8	2,079,957	6	0

Further Returns, connected with Exchange, Currency, &c., will be found in their proper places.

Savings Bank.

Great as has been the prosperity of this admirable Institution the Returns under review exhibit even more marked progress than those of former years, and afford evidence of increased well-doing and thrift amongst the industrial population. The following more important items of the Returns for the past five years show how large are its operations, and how greatly its benefits are availed of:

	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
New accounts opened (number)	706	893	1,081	1,264	1,440
Increase in depositors (number)	271	367	681	629	834
	£	£	£	£	£
Amount deposited	39,430	52,293	65,373	79,482	91,783
„ withdrawn	34,906	38,168	37,627	54,495	63,393
„ depositors' balances	71,895	88,889	121,414	152,663	189,143
„ reserve funds	7,550	9,126	10,175	10,842	12,062
„ total funds	79,445	99,016	131,590	163,506	201,205

The Depositors' Balances are secured upon loans on mortgage, amounting to 127,611*l.*, in Government Securities of the value of 11,600*l.*, and by bank deposits.

Five per cent. per annum is the rate of interest allowed to depositors.

Imports and Exports.

During 1863 the combined import and export trade of the Colony amounted to 4,387,096*l.* against 3,966,452*l.* in the previous year, showing an increase of 420,644*l.*, or over ten per cent. The value of goods imported amounted to 2,028,279*l.*, and of the exports to 2,358,817*l.* The imports of 1862 amounted to 1,820,656*l.*, and the exports to 2,145,796*l.*, showing an increase in the past year's imports of 207,623*l.*, and in the year's exports of 213,021*l.*

The value of the goods retained for home consumption reached 1,764,818*l.*, as against 1,595,347*l.* the year before; the value of the imports re-exported being 263,461*l.* as against 225,309*l.* in the respective periods.

Staple produce formed five-sixths of our exports, amounting to over two millions sterling; the annual increase for 1863, being 174,869*l.*, or more than double the increase of the year previous. The produce of the Colony shipped (2,095,356*l.*) exceeded the imports retained for home use (1,764,818*l.*) by 330,538*l.*, or by nearly twenty per cent.

Our trade with the United Kingdom was slightly in excess of the preceding year, amounting to 2,113,586*l.*, of which imports formed 1,177,706*l.*, and exports 935,880*l.*, the former exceeding the latter by 241,826*l.* Taking into account the large shipment to Great Britain *viâ* Melbourne, the balance of trade with the Mother Country is in favour of this Colony.

Trade with Victoria reached within a few pounds of one million sterling; our exports being 558,001*l.*, only 1,579*l.* more than in the previous year, whilst our imports thence have risen from 198,274*l.* to 441,927*l.*; our shipments, however, exceeding the value of goods received by 116,074*l.* The imports from Victoria include coin of the value of 125,000*l.*; the balance retained in the Colony was 55,000*l.*, seventy thousand sovereigns appearing in the list of exports.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

New South Wales is our next best customer, taking produce to the value of 337,478*l.*, as compared with 323,994*l.* in 1862, we taking goods to the extent of 146,583*l.*, as against 129,798*l.* in the preceding year; showing the balance of trade with this Colony to be 190,895*l.* sterling.

The New Zealand trade has more than doubled, taking from us produce worth 153,062*l.*, against 72,870*l.* in 1862, and 20,801*l.* in the preceding year Trade has also increased with Queensland and Western Australia, the former Colony receiving from us 31,679*l.* worth of goods, against 20,264*l.* in 1862, and with the latter increasing from 13,178*l.* to 18,034*l.* Tasmania supplied us with 19,234*l.* worth of timber, as against 23,631*l.* in the previous year; taking, in return, goods to the value of only 2,640*l.*

With Mauritius, trade was less active, amounting to 144,230*l.*, as compared with 165,607*l.* in 1862; our exports thence being reduced from 40,633*l.* to 27,664*l.* On the other hand, a very important addition has been made to our commercial relations with India, in the extension of the trade in copper. In 1861 our exports to India were only 33,858*l.*; in 1862 they advanced to 145,645*l.*; and during the past year they reached 208,000*l.*; the imports thence being 20,414*l.*

Again, with the Cape Colony, an extended outlet for our products has been opened, our exports thence being respectively, in 1863, 81,406*l.*, (only 5,161*l.* imports being returned); in 1862, 20,446*l.*; and in 1861, 2,706*l.* only.

From Foreign Countries we received goods to the value of 81,504*l.*, amongst which 45,983*l.* worth came from China, and 22,505*l.* value from Sweden. Our exports to Foreign Countries amounted to 4,973*l.* only, viz., 3,540*l.* to the Brazils, and 1,433*l.* to Batavia, both being experimental shipments of breadstuffs.

Further particulars illustrative of the direction in which our trade and commerce are rapidly expanding will be found in the usual detailed tables appended by the Collector of Customs.

Exports, the Produce of the Colony.

Adopting a similar method to that pursued in former years in exhibiting the development of Colonial industry, as shown in the exports of South Australian produce, I append a series of tables, showing the operations at the commencement, middle, and close of the past decade, the aggregate exports in quinquennial periods, and the average annual transactions in such periods, from which may be gathered a fair statement of the progress made, and comparisons be instituted unaffected by exceptional circumstances.

The total exports of produce and of each of the great staples in the years 1854, 1858, and 1863, the shipments in the five years ended 1858 and 1863 respectively, with the average annual exports during those periods, and the proportion which the shipments of agricultural, pastoral, and mineral products bore to the whole value of produce exported, are shown in the next table:—

Period.	Total Exports of Produce.	Of which Exports.			
		Breadstuffs, Grain, &c.	Wool.	Copper and other Minerals.	Miscellaneous Products.
	£	£	£	£	£
In the year 1854 - - -	694,422	316,217	182,419	94,831	100,955
„ 1858 - - -	1,355,041	525,398	420,833	373,282	35,528
„ 1863 - - -	2,095,356	747,116	715,935	542,393	89,912
Total in five years, 1854–58 -	5,878,967	2,390,226	1,803,414	1,490,551	194,776
„ 1859–63 -	8,932,973	3,146,513	3,032,557	2,399,739	354,164
Average of five years, 1854–58 -	1,175,793	478,045	360,683	298,110	38,955
„ 1859–63 -	1,786,595	629,303	606,511	479,948	70,833
Rate per cent. of average exports of 1854–58 - - -	100·	40·6	30·7	25·4	3·3
Rate per cent. of average exports of 1859–63 - - -	100·	35·2	33·9	27·0	3·9

In the five years ending 1863, staple produce was exported to the value of nearly nine millions sterling (8,932,973*l.*), against 5,878,967*l.* in the previous quinquennial period; or, in round numbers, the yearly shipments of produce averaged in the former period eighteen hundred thousand pounds sterling, as compared with twelve hundred

thousand pounds in the latter period—an increase of fifty per cent. Ten years ago our total exports of produce amounted to 694,422*l.*, they now reach over two millions sterling. In 1854 they were at the rate of 8*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* per head, and in 1863 at the rate of 15*l.* per head of the population.

It will be interesting to compare this result with those attained by our neighbours, as shown in the latest statistics, bearing in mind the large production of gold in two of those Colonies.

New South Wales exported by sea, and overland, produce at the rate of 15*l.* 17*s.* per head of her population—one-half in the shape of gold. Victoria exported 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per head, of which two-thirds were gold. Queensland exported 14*l.* per head, and South Australia 15*l.* per head; the former's chief product being wool, amounting to nine-tenths of the whole, and this Colony's productions consisting of about equal proportions of wheat, wool, and copper.

By the census of 1861, it was ascertained that the number of males of fourteen years of age and upwards formed one-third of the whole population. Taking this class to represent the physical strength of the people, it will be found that South Australia, whilst supporting a larger proportion of the dependent classes than in either of the neighbouring Colonies, was enabled in 1863 to produce sufficient for its own necessities, and to export a surplus, equivalent to forty-five pounds per man; our neighbours, notwithstanding their large production of gold, exporting less than forty pounds per man.

The proportion in which the three great industries, the agricultural, the pastoral, and the mining, contribute to the national wealth, as represented in the amount of produce exported, has become nearly equalized. The sheep-farmer is rapidly overtaking the agriculturist, whilst the miner is steadily advancing. Comparing the average annual exports of each class for the five years 1854–58 with those of 1859–63, it will be observed that agricultural produce gave forty and thirty-five per cent., wool gave thirty and thirty-four per cent., and copper twenty-five and twenty-seven per cent. respectively of the yearly shipments in either period. It is no less singular than important, and it augurs well for the future, that the three great staples of South Australia—wheat, wool, and copper—should be produced in proportions so nearly equal.

Breadstuffs, Grain, &c.

Cereal produce was exported during 1863, of the value of 747,116*l.*, an increase of 113,875*l.* upon the previous year. The total value of the shipments during the past ten years amounts to over five and one-half millions sterling. Taking flour and wheat together, the shipments of last year doubled those of five years ago, and were six and one-half times greater than in 1854. The quantity exported in 1863 was 60,434 tons, or 9,342 tons more than in the preceding year, 39,722 tons being shipped in the shape of flour, and the remainder in grain, 932,272 bushels. In 1862, 35,004 tons of flour and 690,960 bushels of wheat were exported. Owing to the demand in the neighbouring Colonies for mixing purposes, the quantity of wheat sent away during the last five years has increased four and a half times over the shipments in the previous quinquennial period; whilst the additional quantity of flour for the same period is sixty-two per cent. The following table affords the necessary particulars:

Period.	Flour.	Wheat.	Total in Flour, at 45 bushels to ton.	Bran and Pollard.
	Tons.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
In the year 1854	7,771	57,744	9,054	3,364
„ 1858	22,982	287,152	29,363	4,931
„ 1863	39,722	932,272	60,434	7,381
Total in five years, 1854–58	91,987	622,800	105,827	19,785
„ 1859–63	148,853	2,835,112	211,855	26,589
Average of five years, 1854–58	18,397	124,560	21,165	3,957
„ 1859–63	29,770	567,022	42,371	5,317

New South Wales continues the largest customer for both wheat and flour, taking 47,373 quarters of the former and 13,772 tons of the latter. Victoria took less flour, but

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

nearly forty per cent. more wheat, than in the year before,—the quantities being 9,392 tons and 25,061 quarters respectively.

For the New Zealand market, 8,075 tons flour (against 1,972 tons), and 16,651 quarters of wheat, were shipped. Very large increases also appear in the shipments to the Cape; 3,655 tons of flour against 1,365 tons, and 21,061 quarters of wheat as against 2,300 quarters, in 1862. Queensland, Mauritius, Western Australia, Brazil, Batavia, and India have all received supplies in increased quantities; but to Great Britain only 171 tons of flour and 190 quarters of wheat were sent, as against 3,607 tons and 6,303 quarters in 1862; South Australia having fortunately had nearer and more profitable markets to supply, although her surplus produce was augmented one-fifth.

Wool.

During 1863 the number of bales of wool shipped was 48,226, an addition of 5,523 bales. The weight of the whole amounted to 16,568,979 lbs., against 14,497,244 lbs. in the previous year, the declared values being 776,545*l.* and 710,239*l.* respectively. These quantities and values, however, include wool received *viâ* River Murray, and from Western Australia, and re-shipped, viz. 3,238 bales, weighing 1,002,192 lbs., which being deducted from the total shipment leaves the South Australian clip as 44,988 bales, weighing 15,566,787 lbs., an increase of 2,337,778 lbs. on the clip of the previous season, or at the rate of eighteen per cent., and of the declared value of 715,935*l.*, exactly one-third of our total exports of produce.

The immense development in the production of wool during the past ten years is shown in the following statement. In the first half of that period the produce—in 1854 only 3,463,760 lbs.—doubled itself, and in the last half doubled itself again, the production in 1863 being, as above stated, 15,566,787 lbs.

Period.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£ s. d.
In the year 1854	3,463,760	182,419 0 0
„ 1858	7,775,225	420,833 0 0
„ 1863	15,566,787	715,935 0 0
Total in five years, 1854–58	34,760,580	1,803,414 0 0
„ 1859–63	63,188,273	3,302,557 0 0
Average of five years, 1854–58	6,952,116	360,683
„ 1859–63	12,637,654	606,511 0 0

During the past three years, wool has been shipped from each of the following ports in the proportions stated:—

	1861.	1862.	1863.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
From Port Adelaide	6,662,020	7,162,032	7,321,137
Port Wakefield	2,285,269	2,041,550	2,799,000
Port Robe	876,660	1,758,980	1,218,400
Port Augusta	3,335,442	2,180,354	4,128,641
Port MacDonnell	5,000	42,593	39,309
Port Wallaroo	—	43,500	60,300
Total Export of South Australian Wool	13,164,391	13,229,009	15,566,787
Produce of other Colonies	1,464,612	1,268,235	1,002,192
Total Shipment (lbs.)	14,629,003	14,497,244	16,568,979
Total Shipment (bales)	38,396	42,703	48,226
	£	£	£
Total Value of South Australian Wool	623,007	635,270	715,935
Total Value of other Wool	72,398	74,969	60,610
Total Value	695,405	710,239	776,545

Taking the whole number (3,891,642) of sheep and lambs depasturing in the past year to have been shorn, the clip of South Australian wool gave an average of four pounds weight to the fleece. The shipment of Queensland wool averaged in the same year less than two pounds per fleece. In New South Wales and Victoria, the average weight of fleece is under three pounds, in a measure owing to a great part of the wool exported being washed, whereas in the two first-named Colonies the larger portion is shipped in grease.

Minerals.

The mines of South Australia have yielded during the last ten years nearly four millions sterling; of which sum five-eighths is the result of the past five years' working, during which period the average value of each year's shipment has been 479,948*l.*, the actual shipment in 1863 amounting to 542,393*l.* in value. The following figures show the quantities of each mineral produced and exported during that period:—

Periods.	Copper.	Lead.	Copper Ore.	Lead Ore.	Regulus.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Total in five years, 1854–58 - -	170,043	16	31,487	2,476	399
„ 1859–63 - -	365,162	5,038	33,779	893	1,326
Average of five years, 1854–58 - -	34,008	3	6,297	495	80
„ 1859–63 - - -	73,026	1,007	6,756	178	265

In 1854, 8,119 cwt. of fine copper were shipped; in 1858, 47,796 cwt.; and in 1863, 96,039 cwt., being 10,167 cwt. increase on the previous year.

To India 39,861 cwt. were exported, against 28,145 cwt. in 1862; and to Victoria, for transhipment, 35,050 cwt.; the quantity sent forward direct to Great Britain begin 21,088 cwt.; nearly all the copper ore, 5,295 tons, also being shipped direct. The proportion now sent away in its crude form is very small, smelting operations being conducted on a most extensive scale within the Colony. Whilst the shipments of lead have decreased from 426 cwt. to 271 cwt., those of lead ore have increased from 97 tons to 450 tons, of 9,007*l.* value.

Miscellaneous Products.

In addition to the staple produce referred to in previous paragraphs, the export of a variety of raw products and manufactured articles tends to swell the total amount of our shipments of produce. The whole value of miscellaneous articles shipped in 1863 was 89,912*l.*, against 104,357*l.* in the previous year. The following are the principal items showing an increase in 1863:—902 horses, value 18,339*l.*; hides and skins, 663*l.*; tons, 993*l.* tons, 5,969*l.*; gum, 1,901 cwts., 1,690*l.*; bacon and hams, 1,915*l.*; hay, 2,863 bark, 11,953*l.*; jam, 3,795*l.* value. And the following articles were shipped in less quantities; viz., leather, 1,560 cwt., 7,263*l.*; butter, 1,940 cwt., 9,924*l.*; fruit, 4,605*l.*; and eggs, 5,769*l.* value. The export of South Australian wine has increased one third, 27,705 gallons, valued at 7,243*l.*, being shipped, principally to Victoria; against 20,574 gallons, worth 6,777*l.*, in the preceding year. Small as are some of these amounts individually, the aggregate addition to the wealth of the Colony is not inconsiderable, and are important to note, as indicating the growth of new industries, and an inclination to husband our resources.

River Murray Trade.

The River trade last year was somewhat greater than in the year before, amounting to 142,602*l.*, as compared with 115,769*l.* Nearly the whole traffic is with New South Wales settlers, Victoria only taking stores of the value of 5,161*l.* The shipments to New South Wales amounted to 76,054*l.*, as against 60,822*l.* in the previous season.

Three thousand two hundred and thirty-eight bales of wool, and some hides and tallow, altogether valued at 61,387*l.*, were brought down the river, against 52,927*l.* last season, when 2,394 bales of wool were imported. Five-sixths of the river-borne wool was shipped at South Australian ports, direct for Great Britain, only 477 bales being sent by way of Melbourne. These figures represent only a tithe of the produce from an immense pastoral country, intersected by navigable streams, opened to commerce by South Australian enterprise, for a distance of over 4,000 miles. Great exertions are being made to meet the requirements of this traffic, now springing into importance, owing to the rapidity with which the country on the banks of this great highway into the interior is becoming settled, and pastoral occupation extended.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Shipping.

The number of vessels arriving in South Australian ports during 1863 was 440, against 374 in the previous year; the tonnage amounting to 127,667 tons, and 105,231 tons respectively, an increase of 86 ships, and in tonnage of 22,436 tons, or one-fifth greater than in 1862. As eight additional vessels from Great Britain, 14 more from New South Wales, and 34 more from Victoria than in the previous year, considerably augment the shipping returns, the following table is subjoined showing the arrivals from the different countries during the two years:—

Ships.		Countries.	Tonnage.	
1862.	1863.		1862.	1863.
49	57	Great Britain	25,744	28,265
130	164	Victoria	24,522	35,954
96	110	New South Wales	26,285	30,903
31	34	Tasmania	3,904	4,427
1	2	Queensland	1,436	368
14	17	Western Australia	4,244	6,253
4	8	New Zealand	1,355	2,873
8	5	Cape of Good Hope	1,944	1,444
—	3	India	—	1,604
17	20	Mauritius	4,507	4,368
3	—	Singapore	1,078	—
3	2	Hongkong	1,188	1,575
1	1	Vancouver Island	316	1,152
9	9	Sweden	5,318	5,331
1	—	France	536	—
1	1	Hamburg	404	120
3	2	United States	1,763	1,521
1	1	Batavia	282	352
2	4	China	405	1,157
374	440		105,231	127,667

The number of vessels departing was 446 of 127,826 tons, against 392 ships of 111,290 tons. It being of equal importance to show to what places we can provide vessels with cargoes, for the proportion of ships leaving in ballast is very small, only seven per cent. (the arrivals in ballast being ten per cent.), a similar table to the preceding is appended, showing like particulars as to departures during the same periods:—

Ships.		Countries.	Tonnage.	
1862.	1863.		1862.	1863.
33	25	Great Britain	18,695	14,465
154	160	Victoria	30,219	34,469
96	93	New South Wales	26,687	24,873
15	13	Tasmania	1,705	1,570
26	54	New Zealand	8,106	13,739
8	11	Queensland	1,524	1,968
12	19	Western Australia	3,448	6,926
7	9	Mauritius	1,915	2,568
3	3	Singapore	1,040	1,623
15	24	India	8,466	13,717
9	25	Cape of Good Hope	2,010	7,315
4	3	Batavia	1,924	1,097
1	1	Brazils	164	327
—	2	Chili	—	676
5	4	Peru	2,756	2,493
1	—	Hongkong	688	—
3	—	Guam	1,943	—
392	446		111,290	127,826

Besides Port Adelaide, there are seven ports at which produce is shipped direct for other countries. As showing the increasing trade of the different ports, the accompanying statement of the shipping engaged, excluding coasting vessels, in the years 1862 and 1863, will be found of interest:—

Inwards.				Ports.	Outwards.			
Ships.		Tonnage.			Ships.		Tonnage.	
1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.		1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.
293	335	92,120	105,774	Port Adelaide - - -	282	341	92,502	107,333
1	1	—	298	„ Augusta - -	4	5	1,794	2,496
4	8	623	1,539	„ Elliot - - -	14	18	1,874	3,403
17	24	1,414	1,717	„ MacDonnell - -	19	25	1,583	1,890
8	5	1,951	2,235	„ Robe - - -	11	6	3,344	3,226
26	35	5,284	10,733	„ Wallaroo - -	24	10	4,917	2,647
16	23	2,456	3,818	„ Willunga - - -	23	28	3,288	4,624
10	9	1,383	1,553	„ Yankalilla - -	15	13	1,988	2,207
374	440	105,231	127,667	Total - -	392	446	111,290	127,826

The number of vessels belonging to Port Adelaide at the close of the year was 80, of a total capacity of 9,386 tons register, of which eleven were steamers.

Insolvencies.

The number of fiats and adjudications in insolvency issued during the past year was 151, or 14 less than in 1862. Eighty-two of them were issued on petition of debtors at large; fifty on petition of imprisoned debtors, all but seven of which were *in formâ pauperis;* and nineteen on the action of creditors. Twenty-five private arrangements by deed were effected, as against seventeen the year before. The total liabilities as shown in the insolvent's schedules was 85,300*l.*, and the assets 40,673*l.*, compared with 145,788*l.*, and 76,818*l.* respectively in the preceding year, when the deficit shown amounted to 68,970*l.*, but in the present return to only 44,627*l.* The greater part of the estates were of trifling amounts, principally of small farmers and licensed victuallers; the average of the whole deficiency amounting to less than 300*l.* for each estate.

Lands, Crown.

The area of land purchased from the Crown during 1863 amounted to 159,791 acres, being 29,881 acres above that in the previous year, and a greater quantity than had been sold in any year since 1859. 368 town allotments, comprising 154 acres, realized an average of 35*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* per acre. 55 special country lots obtained 1*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* for 7,193 acres; and 917 country sections, containing 97,661 acres, realized the average rate of 1*l.* 3*s.* $1\frac{4}{10}$*d.* per acre, being an advance of over 15 per cent. on the upset price of one pound.

Land which had previously passed the hammer was taken up privately to the extent of 54,783 acres, at four-tenths of a penny above the upset price of 1*l.*; the area taken privately the year before was 36,890 acres, showing an increase of 17,893 acres.

The total amount realized was 181,084*l.*, as compared with 148,695*l.* in the previous year.

About 60,000 square miles of country is in pastoral occupation. The area held under fourteen years' leases now current, although there were in addition upwards of five hundred applications for leases yet unprepared, is 31,192 square miles, the difference between which quantity and the above-mentioned area of 60,000 miles is made up of the area of the lands held at present only under pastoral claims, and by the unpurchased land in counties, amounting to nearly 23,202 square miles. One hundred and seven annual leases, comprising 4,074 miles in hundreds, were issued during the year, and 463 certificates were granted, entitling the holders to depasture 10,432 head of great cattle and 236,218 sheep on Crown lands in hundreds, and are exclusive of licences issued by district councils.

Ninety-seven fresh mineral leases were taken out in 1863, comprising 6,808 acres, at a yearly rental of 3,467*l.* The aggregate number of mineral leases issued has been 321, of which 17 have been cancelled, leaving 304 leases current, containing 21,731 acres, and producing a rental to the Government of 10,928*l.* per annum. One hundred and

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

sixty applications for mineral leases were received, or seventy-seven less than in the previous year, 3,618 acres being the extent of land claimed, and twenty-four applications were forfeited, after expiry of right of search for minerals..

The customary statements of the number of depasturage certificates, timber, gold, and quarrying licences issued, and the rental derived from aboriginal reserves, during the last ten years, are appended; as also a return of the amount actually received into the Treasury for the sale and occupation of Waste Lands during the same period, specifying its different sources, to which reference should be made, the aggregate amounts for 1863 exceeding a quarter of a million sterling.

Agriculture.

The following extracts from my Report on the Agricultural and Live Stock Statistics for the year ending 31st March 1864 give such of the information connected with these important subjects as is of general interest:—

" During the year ended 31st December 1863 the area of country and suburban land alienated from the Crown amounted to 159,792 acres against 129,803 acres in the previous twelve months, making a total of 2,658,643 acres sold up to the commencement of this year, or 19 acres for each individual of the population, against 18·6 in 1863, and more than twice the quantity per head in Victoria.

" The proportion of purchased land under tillage is 20·8 per cent., or one in every five acres, comparing favourably with the previous season, when it was 19·07 per cent. The additional land in occupation formed six per cent. on the total area previously alienated from the Crown, whilst the increase in the area under cultivation is 12½ per cent. over that of last year.

" The sale of the public lands continues to increase in a greater ratio than the addition to the population, and cultivation has increased at double the rate at which the purchase of land was augmented.

" The area of enclosed land on the 31st of March 1864 is returned at 2,900,291 acres against 2,105,877 acres on 31st March 1863, no less than 794,414 acres having been enclosed during the year.

" Land under tillage in 1863–4 amounted to 555,968 acres, against 494,511 acres in the previous season; an increase of 61,457 acres, or 12½ per cent.

" There are four acres of land in cultivation for each individual of the population, as compared with 3·65 acres in 1862-3. To show the relative value of these figures, it may be stated that in Victoria and New South Wales the ratio is but four-fifths of an acre per head; so that the area of our land under cultivation as compared with our population is five times greater than in the neighbouring Colonies.

" Sixty per cent. of the total land cultivated was under wheat, 335,758 acres being reaped, against 320,160 acres in the previous season; an increase of 15,598 acres, or five per cent. The wheat harvest produced 4,691,919 bushels, against 3,841,824 bushels in the preceding season, showing an increase of 850,095 bushels, or twenty-two per cent. For the whole Colony the average yield per acre was fourteen bushels, being two bushels in excess of the last crop, a very favourable season having been experienced in those portions of the Colony in which are situated the largest wheat-growing districts. The average was, however, reduced by the small yield in most of the hilly districts (also those longest under cultivation), where the crops suffered from excessive moisture and the prevalence of rust, but where, as before mentioned, the acreage sown was not so great as in previous seasons.

* * * " It is a pleasing duty to record that the late harvest was more bountiful than any we have experienced during the past six years, and that the enterprise and perseverance of our agricultural population have been rewarded with substantial prosperity. Their energy and industry will perhaps best be estimated by the fact that, during that short period (six years), they have nearly doubled the growth of wheat, and more than doubled the breadth of land under cultivation. The following table exhibits the progress made from year to year:—

Season.	Acres Cultivated.	Acres under Wheat.	Produce, Wheat.	Average per Acre.
			Bushels.	B. lbs.
1858–9 - - -	264,462	188,703	2,109,544	11 11
1859–60 - - -	361,884	218,216	2,103,411	9 38
1860–1 - - -	428,816	273,672	3,576,593	13 4
1861–2 - - -	486,667	310,636	3,410,756	10 59
1862–3 - - -	494,511	320,160	3,841,824	12 0
1863–4 - - -	555,968	335,758	4,691,919	14 0

" Five-sixths of the wheat crop is reaped by machines, hand-reaping being almost excluded from the harvest fields of many districts. In fact, without the aid of the " reaper," the grain from so large an area could not be secured. Six years ago we were dependent on manual labour for the gathering of nearly one half the crop.

" The hay harvest was remarkably good, the whole province averaging 27 cwt. to the acre, against 24 cwt.; the total yield off 75,590 acres, or only 1,843 acres more than in the previous season, was 102,293 tons, an increase of 13,308 tons. An addition of 3,132 acres appears in the breadth of land sown with barley, making a total of 13,980 acres. Off this area, 254,001 bushels were reaped, an increase of 57,659 bushels on the previous crop, the average yields of the two seasons were identical, 18 bushels 8 lbs. to the acre. There were 3,923 acres of oats reaped, against 2,310 acres in the previous season; the yield was 74,964 bushels against 44,018, the average being the same, 19 bushels 2 lbs. to the acre in both seasons.

" For green forage, the following crops were laid down; viz., of wheat, oats, and barley, 861 acres; maize, 37 acres; sorghum, 60 acres; lucerne, 1,150 acres; permanent grasses, 282 acres; altogether 2,390 acres,—a decrease of 462 acres on the preceding year. Other crops covered 407 acres against 229 acres in 1863. It remains matter for regret that subsidiary crops are not more generally cultivated; our farmers might withstand the effects of an unfavourable season, where it not that the majority solely rely on the growth of one cereal, and that, almost without intermission or replenishment of the soil. The remedial measure of fallowing the land, however, is much more largely availed of,—110,177 acres lying in fallow as against 72,017 acres in the previous season,—an increase of one third.

" Following upon the failure of the potato crop in 1862–3, when only 2,275 acres were grown, the increase in planting was but small—193 acres,—making 2,468 acres, from which were obtained 6,717 tons, or an average of 55 cwt. to the acre. In 1862–3 the crop amounted to 3,972 tons, the acreable produce being only 35 cwts.

" Orchards and gardens cover 4,586 acres, or an augmented area of 193 acres.

" The cultivation of the vine continues to exhibit marked progress, 1,002 additional acres, or one-fourth more, being returned this season, making a total of 5,779 acres under vines. The plants in bearing number 3,848,016, or 918,260 additional; those not in bearing number 3,316,484, or an increase of 395,543; considerably more than one-half the vines planted are productive. An increase of more than one-fourth also appears in the quantity of wine made, the vintage having given 606,365 gallons, against 472,797 gallons the previous season, or 133,568 gallons additional. The quantity of grapes sold or otherwise disposed of, except in wine making, was 31,359 cwt., against 26,551 cwt. of the previous season."

Pastoral.

" The returns of live stock show an augmentation in the number of horses, sheep, and lambs, but a diminution in the number of horned cattle.

" The number of horses has increased from 56,251 to 59,008. Of horned cattle there is a decrease of 32,176, or from 258,342 head to 226,166 head. The principal falling off is on the Northern Runs, and in the South-eastern District, their place being supplied by large increases in the number of sheep. On the runs referred to, those situated north of Wilpena, there is an increase of over 50,000 sheep, and in the South-eastern District of 160,000. The total increase in the Province of sheep and lambs during the year was 460,642, or 13⅓ per cent., against an increase of 392,644, or 12½ per cent. the year before. At the close of the year, 3,891,642 sheep and lambs were depastured, as compared with 3,431,000 at its commencement.

" 165,267 sheep were exported overland to the neighbouring Colonies during 1863, 130,000 passing into New South Wales, and 35,267 into Victoria. The number exported during the first quarter of the current year, up to which the stock returns are made, was 102,415, and the arrivals 43,386, leaving an excess of exports of 59,029 sheep. The South Australian flocks being free from scab, large purchases have been made here for squatters in the adjoining Colonies stocking new country."

Railways.

The returns for this department for 1863, when compared with the preceding year, show an increase in both passenger and goods traffic, more extended public accommodation at a reduced charge, and a larger balance of receipts over working expenses. The following statement of gross receipts and expenditure, &c. affords a comparison for the two years; detailed particulars are supplied in the returns themselves.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.
GROSS RECEIPTS.			£	£
Number of passengers	289,308	309,898	—	—
Passenger receipts	—	—	24,738	25,788
Tons of goods	197,247	200,831	—	—
Goods receipts	—	—	65,334	69,192
Other receipts	—	—	4,482	2,276
Total Receipts £			94,555	97,256
GROSS EXPENDITURE.				
Management			1,559	1,600
Locomotive department			19,273	18,353
Maintenance of line			16,762	17,134
Other working expenses (including goods agency)			41,846	42,389
Total Expenditure £			79,405	79,476

The following abstract from a report by the Inspector of Railways shows the progress and net earnings (after deducting "goods agency" from either side of above account) of the undertaking since its commencement in 1856.

Years.	Miles open.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Per-centage of Expenditure.	Profits.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1856	7½	15,873 0 0	15,236 0 0	95·4	637 0 0
1857	24½	39,528 0 0	37,774 0 0	92·0	1,754 0 0
1858	32½	51,582 0 0	44,981 0 0	85·5	6,601 0 0
1859	32½	48,068 0 0	39,871 0 0	82·5	8,197 0 0
1860	45	55,588 0 0	43,636 0 0	78·5	11,952 0 0
1861	57	64,935 0 0	53,808 0 0	82·1	11,127 0 0
1862	57	67,483 0 0	54,400 0 0	80·7	13,083 0 0
1863	57	70,420 0 0	52,639 0 0	74·7	17,781 0 0

The yearly increasing amounts in the column headed "profits" considerably reduce the annual charge for interest on the outlay (not included in the expenditure), and would have been greater had not the cost of additional stock, &c. usually placed to capital account been charged to Revenue.

Roads.

Twenty-two miles and thirty-five chains of new road were metalled and completed during the past year, making the total length of macadamised main road 258 miles 35 chains, of which 220 miles is the work of the last ten years.

The expenditure of the Central Board of Main Roads, during the same period, in construction and maintenance of main lines, amounted to 754,324*l*; the whole provided out of the General Revenue.

Besides the above, which relates only to main roads, a very considerable length of district road has been macadamised, or otherwise improved; the total amount expended on improvements of this nature, by Municipalities and District Councils, since 1857, amounting to 335,975*l*., raised by local rates, supplemented from the General Revenue.

Postal Communication.

During 1863, twelve additional post offices were opened; and the length of mail routes extended from 2,571 to 2,882 miles. The distance travelled by mails, however, shows more truly the additional accommodation provided, having increased from 553,800 miles to 657,772 miles during the twelve months. The income of the department nearly equalled the expenditure. The following are the particulars:—

	1861.	1862.	1863.
Number of letters	1,540,472	1,640,153	1,817,379
Number of newspapers	1,089,424	1,136,023	1,254,893
Distance travelled by the mails	478,426	553,890	657,772
	£	£	£
Income	16,496	17,448	19,019
Expenditure	16,423	18,582	19,694

Forty money-order offices in connexion with the Post Office and Telegraph Departments are now open, and in correspondence with the various offices in the United Kingdom, and with one hundred and seventy-one offices in the neighbouring Colonies.

The cost of English mail subsidy is not included in the above expenditure, neither is the large sum for the King George's Sound Branch Service—about 15,000*l.* per annum paid by this Colony, in order to secure the advantages of its geographical position; advantages shared by the other Australian Colonies in the regular receipt of European news forty-eight hours sooner, and by at least one day's later transmission of Australian intelligence.

Telegraphs.

Telegraphic communication has been further extended by the opening of thirty-eight additional miles of line, making the total length of wire in operation 1,064 miles. There are now thirty-eight telegraph stations within the Colony, three new ones having been opened during the past twelvemonth; 86,411 messages were transmitted, as against 76,725 in 1862. The total receipts amounted to 8,695*l.*, an increase on the former year's revenue of 648*l.* Great as are the local advantages attaching to the speediest possible communication, the importance of the telegraph in a national point of view is greatly augmented by the circumstance that our neighbours are afforded at least 48 hours earlier communication with Europe and the East, and that by means of the chain of telegraph wire, extending for 5,521 miles throughout this and the neighbouring colonies, 175 towns—of which four are capitals and twenty-five are seaports—are placed in telegraphic communication with each other, all having been accomplished in the short space of eight years. Between Port Denizon in Queensland and Port Augusta in South Australia, daily meteorological observations will be interchanged, and the movements of shipping on a coast line embracing 2,500 miles in extent will shortly be simultaneously known in nearly every centre of population in the four Provinces.

Meteorological.

The following abstract, showing the rain-fall at Adelaide during each month of the last twenty-five years, has been obligingly furnished by G. S. Kingston, Esq., M.P., who has recorded this valuable information since the foundation of the Colony.

Years.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total for the Year.	Average annual fall as shown by preceding observations.
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
1839 - - -	0·453	0·446	0·85	0·379	0·245	3·497*	2·128	4·767*	0·85	2·57*	3·31*	0·345	19·84	—
1840 - - -	0·335	2·01*	0·457	1·202	1·487	3·247*	1·9	2·939*	4·64*	1·9*	0·19	3·82*	24·107*	21·973
1841 - - -	0·45	0·35	0·81	2·57*	1·71	2·32	0·758	2·823*	2·045	0·94	0·47	1·71*	17·956	20·634
1842 - - -	0·37	0·71	1·015*	1·808	2·05	2·401	2·09	2·77*	1·931	2·653*	1·19	1·35*	20·318	20·555
1843 - - -	0·21	0·54	0·59	1·06	2·98*	1·72	3·307*	2·16	1·085	1·640	0·2	1·7*	17·192	19·883
1844 - - -	0·41	0·175	0·74	1·68	1·845	1·138	3·655*	2·115	2·34*	1·045	0·91	0·825	16·878	19·382
1845 - - -	0·134	0·32	0·28	0·53	2·63	3·695*	2·245	3·226*	1·95	1·165	1·28	1·335*	18·83	19·303
1846 - - -	0·14	2·32*	0·675	2·5*	3·58*	1·97	3·78*	2·64	2·59*	2·235*	2·95*	1·505*	26·885*	20·251
1847 - - -	0·17	0·03	1·608*	3·5*	2·37	7·8*	4·49*	1·77	2·335*	0·655	1·185	1·7*	27·613	21·068
1848 - - -	0·00	0·0	0·965*	0·75	2·23	1·32	2·48	2·85*	3·19*	2·88*	2·415*	0·655	19·735	20·935
1849 - - -	0·00	0·285	0·61	2·29*	1·835	7·21*	4·03*	3·511*	2·423*	0·79	1·96*	0·5	25·444*	21·345
1850 - - -	4·00*	0·13	0·25	0·9	1·74	3·54*	1·09	1·27	2·154*	0·72	1·795*	1·685*	19·274	21·173
1851 - - -	0·123	0·15	0·952*	1·52	6·34*	3·34*	5·04*	5·36*	2·808*	1·2	3·55*	0·25	30·633*	21·9
1852 - - -	1·5*	0·4	0·03	2·17*	2·97*	3·06*	4·33*	6·24*	2·04	1·57	1·92*	1·11	27·34*	22·289
1853 - - -	0·405	0·675	0·328	6·78*	4·468*	2·67	2·408	2·495	3·453*	2·073*	0·42	0·82	26·995*	22·6
1854 - - -	0·103	0·03	1·05*	2·815*	1·525	1·158	2·556	2·548	0·711	1·737*	0·598	0·515	15·346	22·149
1855 - - -	0·04	1·28*	3·12*	1·1	3·093*	2·545	3·33*	1·876	3·413*	1·733*	0·575	1·045	23·145*	22·208
1856 - -	0·875*	2·5*	0·598	3·655*	2·645	6·223*	1·573	1·868	1·655	2·475*	0·55	0·304	24·921*	22·358
1857 - -	0·49	0·78*	3·825*	1·247	0·704	4·505*	1·86	3·315*	0·99	2·1*	1·315*	1·025	21·156	22·295
1858 - - -	0·86*	2·67*	0·23	1·33	4·145*	1·06	3·02*	1·683	2·016	0·635	2·165*	1·708*	21·522	22·256
1859 - - -	0·34	1·16*	0·01	0·735	4·67*	2·075	0·75	1·733	0·671	1·455	0·753	0·51	14·842	21·903
1860 - - -	0·175	0·0	2·105*	4·405*	2·456	3·628*	1·408	0·765	1·662	1·445	0·873	0·748	19·67	21·804
1861 - - -	0·49	0·58	1·43*	2·005*	4·253*	1·941	4·163*	1·168	2·43*	1·825*	0·583	4·235*	25·133*	21·955
1862 - - -	0·275	0·78*	0·39	1·611	5·15	1·81	5·405*	3·338*	1·755	1·165	0·759	0·155	22·593*	21·981
1863 - - -	0·885*	0·345	0·51	0·55	5·255*	2·465	2·865*	2·005	1·32	3·035	0·735	0·845	20·815	21·903
Average of 25 years 1839 to 1863, both inclusive - - -	0·529	0·746	0·933	2·003	2·895	3·053	2·826	2·691	2·098	1·655	1·306	1·216	—	21·934
1864 - - -	1·865*	0·185	0·0	1·165	3·26*	2·32	3·16*	4·035	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Shows when the fall for the month and year is above the average.

During the past few years pluvial statistics have been recorded in numerous localities throughout the Province, and generally a higher average of rain-fall than that registered in Adelaide has been gauged in the country districts—varying as much as from seven to fifty-six inches per annum—full particulars of which will be found in the tables under this head. An elaborate report on the meteorology of the Colony being annually furnished by Charles Todd, Esq., F.R.A.S., Observer, it is only necessary to call attention to a portion of his observations supplied herein as being of general interest.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Conclusion.

The statistical view of the progress of South Australia since its foundation, which completes this volume, gives, in a compendious form, the chief statistical facts relating to the Colony's development. In the foregoing paragraphs—necessarily brief, and confined to the more important subjects only—a fair statement is presented of the position of the Province at the close of its twenty-seventh year—a year of marked prosperity and advancement shared in by all classes of the community.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient humble servant,
J. BOOTHBY,
Government Statist.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 21.

No. 21.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMPTON to his Grace the DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 24.)

MY LORD DUKE, Government House, Perth, February 20, 1864.

IN COMPLIANCE with the instructions contained in the 4th section of the 7th chapter of the Colonial Regulations, I have the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1863, accompanied by an explanatory letter from the Colonial Secretary dated the 19th inst.

19th Feb. 1864.

2. The statistical information now transmitted, shows that the progress of the Colony under the several heads specified in the Blue Book, has been generally favourable.

3. It appears that the total Revenue received for the year 1862 amounted to 69,406*l.*, which included a loan of 2,069*l.* from the Western Australian Bank, and therefore the actual Revenue for the year was 67,337*l.*

4. The total Revenue received for the year 1863 was 71,708*l.*, including 2,300*l.* of Post Office Savings Bank deposits, making the actual available revenue 69,408*l.*, being an increase of 2,071*l.* as compared with the previous year.

5. This increase would have been still greater if there had not been a considerable falling off in the Revenue from Tobacco, which was 1,605*l.* below the amount on the estimate, and 1,115*l.* less than the average received for the preceding three years.

6. Under existing circumstances with reference to the supply of Tobacco from the North American States, it is not likely that there will be any increase of Revenue on this item for the current year.

7. The Blue Book exhibits a total expenditure of 71,073*l.* for the year 1863, while in reality 2,069*l.* of that sum was expended in the year 1862 and repaid to the Western Australian Bank in 1863, thereby rendering 69,004*l.* the actual expenditure for 1863.

8. By leaving the repayment of the Bank loan and the receipt of Post Office Savings Bank deposits out of both sides of the account the Revenue for the year 1863 would be 404*l.* in excess of the expenditure during that year.

9. The encouraging state of Imports and Exports, reported in the Blue Book, affords satisfactory evidence of steady advancement in the prosperity of the Colony.

10. I am glad to be able, at last, to report that very little additional outlay of money will be required for the new Government House, which for years past has absorbed so much of the Revenue that might have been more usefully expended.

11. The money voted by the Legislative Council for public works and the convict labour at my disposal will hereafter be available for roads, bridges, and other works of general public utility, as the liabilities incurred by my predecessor are now all satisfied, and, with the exception of the claim on the general Revenue connected with the Post Office Savings Bank, the whole of the Revenue for 1864 can be expended in accordance with the authorized estimate for that year. Moreover, there is good reason to believe that the public Income for 1864 will be amply sufficient to meet every claim against it, including the 2,300*l.* of Savings Bank deposits brought to credit as Revenue for the year 1863.

12. Although the Post Office Savings Bank only came into operation on the 1st September last there was 2,470*l.* in it on the 31st December 1863, and the persons for whose benefit it was established are not only acquiring confidence in this very useful institution, but are also learning to appreciate the value of such safety for small savings, the deposits having increased 700*l.* since the 31st December last, making the actual total now in the bank 3,170*l.*

13. This success is rendered remarkable by the fact that all former attempts to establish Savings Banks in Western Australia completely failed.

14. Interest at the rate of 3¾ per cent. is paid by the Government on deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank, and arrangements have been completed for investing 1,000*l.* of such deposits on unexceptional security at 8 per cent., so that, even with a large balance kept in hand to meet unforeseen withdrawals, the institution can be made self-supporting by continuing to invest additional funds from time to time when circumstances admit.

15. The Governments Schools are generally in a very efficient state, and, as shown by the Blue Book, are much more numerous than might be expected amongst a population consisting of such a small number of free persons.

16. A well organized and efficient company of volunteers has been formed in the metropolis, another in Fremantle, and a mounted troop at Pinjarrah.

17. The general proficiency of all these volunteers in ordinary drill and in rifle shooting, combined with the public spirit exhibited by the whole, afford a satisfactory guarantee that they could be thoroughly relied upon in the event of their services being required by the Government.

18. During the year 1863 several expeditions have explored new and altogether unknown parts of the Colony, and it may fairly be assumed that a valuable outlet has thereby been opened up for the surplus live stock of the overcrowded runs in the settled districts. I may add that further explorations are still in progress.

19. I have much pleasure in being able to assure your Grace that tranquillity and obedience to the law prevail throughout this Colony, and that I am not aware of any opposition to the policy of the Government, or objection on the part of the inhabitants generally, to the existing mode of carrying on the ordinary administrative details of public business.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. S. HAMPTON.
Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 21.

Encl. in No. 21.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
February 19, 1864.

SIR,

ENCLOSED, I have the honour to forward for transmission to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Blue Book for the year 1863.

Revenue.

1. I am glad to be able to report that the Revenue for the year exceeded the estimate by nearly 4,000*l.*, and that the Expenditure, though in advance of the estimate by a sum of 3,270*l.*, was yet less by 635*l.* than the actual Revenue received.

2. The Customs Revenue has realized within a few pounds of the sum estimated: there has, however, been a falling off in the receipts for tobacco and goods paying ad valorem duty, which has been counterbalanced by an excess of Revenue under the heads of spirits, wine, beer, tea, and sugar.

While the land sales have decreased some 1,100*l.*, there is a small increase in the Land Revenue, which has steadily progressed for some years, and bids fair annually to increase.

A sum of 2,300*l.* was received into the Treasury during the year from deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank, which it is reasonable should be deducted from the gross Revenue detailed. It has, however, been balanced by a payment of over 2,000*l.* made in the early part of the year to the Western Australian Bank for monies loaned in 1862.

In my report forwarded with the Blue Book for 1862 I expressed a hope that at the end of the then current year, the Colony would be free from all liabilities. I regret such hope has proved fallacious.

There was a balance in the Treasurer's books on the 31st December 1863 of 361*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* in favour of the Colony, and if this sum is deducted from the 2,300*l.* Savings Bank

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

deposits, which cannot be credited as actual Revenue, it will show that the Colony was in debt at the commencemeut of the current year 1,938*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* With the exceptions of the liabilities named at page 44 of the enclosed Blue Book, and the sum above mentioned, the Colony is free from any debt.

Colonial Expenditure.

3. The increased Expenditure in the establishments is accounted for by the addition to the salaries authorized in January 1863, and the increased staff in the Survey Department also sanctioned by Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

The general items of Expenditure vary so little, either from the estimates or the actual amounts in preceding years, as to call for no remarks.

Imperial Expenditure.

4. It is satisfactory to note an increase of 20,000*l.* of Imperial Expenditure over that in 1862, and I would, I could look forward with any sanguine hope that that Expenditure would still increase, and that larger numbers of convicts would be forwarded to Western Australia.

I have so often advocated the powers of the Colony to maintain convicts, that I refrain from saying anything more on the subject, feeling that the question of the continuance of transportation hither hangs in the balance, and very possibly at the present moment is on the eve of decision. If that decision is adverse to the wants and desire of Western Australia, it is much to be feared that a period of depression and stagnation awaits it, and that time alone, with the introduction of capital and labour, can develope its resources. This depression has already commenced; for the want of means to undertake large public works, the uncertainty as to the continuance of transportation, and the consequent stoppage of all private enterprise, has caused the labor market to be overstocked, and a decrease in the price of all colonial produce, while there is much distress among the lower orders, and a determination among those who have the means to migrate to the Eastern Colonies.

Public Works.

5. It is some satisfaction to be able to state that the new Government House at Perth is almost completed, and that his Excellency and family have inhabited it for some months.

No new works of any importance have been undertaken during the past year.

A sum of nearly 6,000*l.* has been expended throughout the Colony in the construction of roads and bridges, and the more general distribution of convict labour has caused this money to be expended with far greater advantage than has hitherto been the case.

Population.

6. I have to note a small increase in the population of 1,534 persons, of whom, with the exception of the births in the Colony exceeding the deaths by about 350, the greater number are convicts.

Numerical Returns.

7. I would call attention to the miscellaneous numerical returns which are applicable to this Colony for the current year for the first time, and from which in future years it is hoped some satisfactory comparisons may be drawn.

Imports and Exports.

8. There is little remarkable to note in the returns of Imports and Exports; in the former there is a decrease of about 15,000*l.* as compared with 1862, and in the latter a large increase of some 24,000*l.*

The decreased Imports may be accounted for by the excess of goods imported in 1862, and there is every reason to hope that the current year will fulfil its expectations.

The increased Exports are consequent on a wool ship leaving prior to the end of 1863, and carrying a great portion of the clip of that year. I believe no instance has previously occurred of a cargo of wool leaving the Colony during the year it was clipped.

Agriculture.

9. The agricultural returns (upon which it is unsafe to place implicit reliance) show an increased cultivation of 5,000 acres, and a considerable increase in all kinds of stock, over the returns for 1862.

While I am aware that there is a greater extent of cultivation, and that the lambing season was far above the average, I am not prepared to think the increased cultivation or the number of stock has so rapidly increased as shown in these returns.

Crime.

10. The Crime returns, including the convictions both before the Supreme Court and Justices of the Peace, are much on an average with preceding years, and though large in comparison with the population, particularly when taken in connection with other places, are not extraordinary when it is considered of what class the major portion of our population is composed.

The majority of the summary convictions are for offences of a very trifling nature.

General Remarks.

11. The great experience your Excellency has had during a residence of two years in the Colony, and particularly the practical experience derived from a tour throughout the entire settled districts, has made you so fully acquainted with the actual state, the resources, and the wants of Western Australia that it is unnecessary for me to extend my remarks to greater length.

With a fair prospect of the continuance of transportation for a few years, even on as small a scale as hitherto in force, with the reasonable hope that the lands in the north and east districts are about to be occupied by squatters from our own and the Eastern Colonies, and with the certainty that the mines in the Victoria district are progressing favourably, I would hope much for the onward career of Western Australia; but I fear if transportation ceases or decreases that some considerable time must elapse before she merges from the state of depression that must in such case inevitably ensue.

I have, &c.,

To His Excellency the Governor, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) FRED. P. BARLEE.

NEW ZEALAND.

No. 22.

[Not received.]

EASTERN COLONIES.

CEYLON.

CEYLON.

No. 23.

No. 23.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Officer Administering the Government to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 197.) Queen's House, Colombo,

SIR, August 30, 1864.

IN forwarding to you the Blue Book Returns of this Colony for the year 1863, I have to express my regret at the delay which has occurred in their transmission. This delay is attributable chiefly to the late period at which the returns from which the Blue Book is compiled were received from some of the departments. I have had occasion to express my dissatisfaction with some of the heads of departments at this delay, and to point out to them the importance which Her Majesty's Government attach to the regular transmission of these returns. I have been informed in reply that the delay was occasioned by the unusual amount of sickness which prevailed in different parts of the Island for some time past, and which caused the absence of many of the clerks in several departments from personal sickness or family bereavement and affliction.

2. Although I assumed the administration of the Government only on the 1st December 1863, the remarks which I will now do myself the honour of offering will apply to the whole of the year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue of 1863 exceeds that of 1862 by 193,654*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, being respectively 952,790*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* and 759,135*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.* The following are the principal items of increase:—Imports 34,091*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, arising from a larger importation of goods in 1863; and exports 12,648*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*, owing to a larger exportation of coffee, cocoa-nut oil, and plumbago. Land sales 27,390*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.* Under the head Land Revenue, the principal increase is in the item of paddy, 23,048*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, owing to a better harvest and more extensive cultivation in 1863 than in the preceding year. There is also an increase of 967*l.* 15*s.* 8½*d.* in the royalty on plumbago, caused by a greater demand for this article, and the consequent increased number of applications to dig for it in Crown lands. The higher prices obtained for the toll rents of 1863 caused an increase under this head of 8,908*l.* 4*s.* 8¾*d.*, and from the same cause there was an increase in the arrack rents of 7,882*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* Under the head of Stamps the increase in judicial and blank stamps, amounting to 5,935*l.* 0*s.* 9¼*d.*, is chiefly in the Central Province, and is attributed to the extension of trade and briskness of speculation, especially in buying and selling landed property. There is also an increase in postage stamps of 1,329*l.* 4*s.* 10¾*d.*, and in composition for stamp duty on bank notes in circulation of 1,306*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* Under the head of Sale of Government Property the increase in the item of salt of 2,176*l.* 16*s.* 5½*d.* is in the North-western and Northern Provinces, and is attributed to a large demand for that article in 1863; and that of 10,159*l.* 14*s.* 0¼*d.* in commissariat stores, &c. is owing to larger payments by public departments for stores, &c. sold in 1863. The increase of 2,946*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* under the head of Electric Telegraph is owing chiefly to a change in the tariff of charges introduced in December 1862. Under the head of Reimbursements the principal items of increase are—686*l.* 4*s.* 2¾*d.* surveying fees recovered, and 2,419*l.* 17*s.* passage money of immigrant coolies, which is a new item of receipt. The increase under the head Miscellaneous is owing chiefly to a sum of 3,226*l.* received from the Oriental Bank Corporation in 1863 on account of the Immigrant Labour Commissioners. Under the head Pearl Fishery the increase amounts to 51,010*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*, and is explained by the fact that there was no fishery at Aripo in 1862.

4. The decreases under the several heads of revenue in 1863, as compared with those of 1862, amount on the whole only to 13,786*l.* 14*s.* 4¼*d.* Of these, the principal are 5,239*l.* 12*s.* 1½*d.* arrears of revenue of former years, owing to greater regularity in the payment of the rents of 1862, leaving a small balance only to be recovered in 1863; 1,462*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* interest, owing to the interest on the amount of export duty funded allowed by the Oriental Bank Corporation for 1862 having been brought to account by the treasurer in that year as a revenue receipt, instead of as deposit export duty funded; and 1,143*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* incidental receipts by the agents in London, owing to the agents having brought to account certain extraordinary receipts in 1862.

5. The total ordinary expenditure of the year amounted to 738,194*l.* 6*s.* 11½*d.* The excess of revenue over the expenditure of the year was therefore 214,595*l.* 19*s.* 7½*d.*

But in addition to the above sum of 738,194*l.* 6*s.* 11½*d.* there was a further expenditure under the Surplus Fund Ordinance of a sum of 119*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* for military works and buildings, making the total expenditure of the year 738,314*l.* 6*s.* 4½*d.*

6. As compared with the expenditure of the preceding year, that of 1863 shows an increase of 111,540*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*, viz., establishments 7,679*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*, and services exclusive of establishment, 103,861*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* Under the latter head the principal items are, pensions and retired allowances 2,860*l.* 18*s.* 11½*d.*, owing chiefly to the arrears of pensions paid by the Madras Government to the Kandyan state prisoners and pensioners having been brought to account in 1863; revenue services 5,568*l.* 17*s.* 7½*d.*, on account of the cost of manufacturing, collecting, and storing salt in the North-western Province, and of the expenses of the pearl fishery at Aripo; transport, 3,446*l.* 4*s.* 10¼*d.*, on account of one third passage money paid to public servants proceeding to and from England, and the increased expenditure incurred for the conveyance of convicts beyond the Island; works and buildings 2,333*l.* 6*s.* 4¾*d.*; roads, streets, and bridges 28,523*l.* 2*s.* 9¾*d.*; Government vessels 3,602*l.* 13*s.* 8¼*d.*, on account of the expenses attending the repairs of the steamer "Pearl" at Calcutta and Coconada, which were brought to account in 1863; immigration 1,646*l.* 15*s.* 4¼*d.*; and railway liabilities 73,420*l.* 6*s.* 2¼*d.* The large increase under this head is owing to the amount of export duty having been brought to account in 1863 as a charge against the vote, under the head "railway liabilities," and funded in the Oriental Bank, whilst in previous years the amounts were only taken credit for in the public accounts as "export duty funded."

7. Under some of the heads there was a decrease in the expenditure of 1863 as compared with that of the preceding year. Of these the principal are:—miscellaneous, 2,926*l.* 11*s.* 2½*d.*, owing to a smaller expenditure by the Crown Agents in London in 1863 on account of miscellaneous charges; colonial commissariat 5,554*l.* 3*s.* 8¾*d.*, also in consequence of smaller payments for stores procured from England; refund of duties, drawbacks, &c., 3,121*l.* 13*s.* 1½*d.*, and electric telegraph 3,813*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, no expenditure having been incurred in 1863 for the construction of telegraph lines.

Assets and Liabilities.

8. From the Auditor General's Return of Assets and Liabilities it will be seen that the total amount of assets on the 1st January 1864 was 752,284*l.* 4*s.* 1½*d.* and the amount of liabilities 719,172*l.* 12*s.* 2¾*d.*, leaving an apparent balance in favour of the Ceylon Government of 33,111*l.* 11*s.* 10¾*d.* In the assets is included a sum of 67,130*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*, amount of revenue debts outstanding. Of this the sum of 39,155*l.* 13*s.* 8¾*d.* is considered irrecoverable, and will have to be struck off the returns, on authority being obtained from Her Majesty's Government, 2,007*l.* 4*s.* 10¼*d.* are awaiting the decision of courts of Law, and there is a prospect of recovering only the sum of 25,967*l.* 8*s.* 0*d.* The assets also include the following sums reserved for railway purposes:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Export duty funded in the Oriental Bank, including interest thereon	67,696	16	4
Annual contribution from General Revenue, including interest thereon	31,167	4	8
Remittance from the Crown Agents in London from railway funds in their hands, including interest thereon	53,342	0	10
Balance of railway funds in the hands of the Crown Agents	129,010	1	4
Total	281,216	3	2

9. In the statement of liabilities is included a sum of 9,543*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, being balance unexpended under the Surplus Fund Ordinances, the whole of which it will probably not be necessary to expend. It also includes the following items on account of the railway expenditure:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Amount of Ceylon debentures sold in England to pay the debt of the late Railway Company	100,000	0	0
Interest thereon at 6 per cent. per annum for seven years	30,009	0	0
Amount of Ceylon Government debentures sold in England in May 1863 for the construction of the railway	250,000	0	0
Interest thereon at 6 per cent. per annum for fifteen years	217,719	0	0
Total	597,728	0	0

CEYLON.

10. Ascompared with the Return of 1st January 1863, there was an increase in the assets on the 1st January of the present year of 268,202*l.* 14*s.* 7¼*d.*, and in the liabilities of 487,551*l.* 15*s.* 5¾*d.*

Imports and Exports.

11. There was an increase of 858,111*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* in the value of goods imported in 1863, as compared with 1862, the one having been 3,590,832*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, the other 2,732,721*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*; and in the exports of 973,217*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, the value for the two years, having been 1862, 2,205,966*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, 1863, 3,179,184*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*

12. These figures do not include the specie imported and exported. Adding these, the total value of the imports and exports of 1863, as compared with those of the preceding year, stands thus :—

Imports.

1862	- - -	£4,243,139	11 8
1863	- - -	5,433,806	10 7

Exports.

1862	- - -	£2,494,120	5 2
1863	- - -	3,587,234	6 5

13. The increase in the value of imports is caused chiefly by the enhanced value of cotton goods, and the increased importation of grain, wines, spirits, malt liquors, and other goods, viz.:—

Cotton goods - - -	£284,564
Silk ditto - - -	14,598
Grain - - - -	89,962
Wines, spirits, and malt liquors -	14,687
Other goods - - -	454,300
	£858,111

14. The quantity of grain, including rice, paddy, gram, &c., imported in 1863, was 5,430,618 bushels, being an increase of 398,486 bushels over that imported in 1862, which was 5,032,132 bushels.

15. In the exports the increase is attributable mainly to the larger quantity of coffee exported in 1863, which was 828,587 cwts., whilst in 1862 it was only 605,178 cwts., the increase being 223,409 cwts. There was also an increase in cocoa-nut oil exported in 1863 of 449,054 gallons; the quantities being,—1862, 1,429,531 gallons; 1863, 1,878,585 gallons. In cinnamon there was a decrease of 141,437 lbs.; the quantity exported in 1863 being 734,038 lbs., whilst in 1862 it was 875,475 lbs.

16. The revenue derived from imports and exports in 1863 was 280,107*l.* 14*s.*, showing an increase of 46,030*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* over that of the preceding year, which amounted to 234,077*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* Adding to the above sum the port dues and warehouse rent, viz., 9,384*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, the total customs revenue for 1863 amounted to 289,492*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*

17. I append to this Despatch a return * of exports of coffee, cinnamon, cocoa-nut-oil, and coir, for the last ten years; return * of the total value of imports and exports (including specie and bullion) in the years 1861, 1862, and 1863, and a statement * of the number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in the same years.

Public Works.

18. I forward the following documents required by Her Majesty's Government, in addition to the return of public works included among the Blue Book returns.

Estimated expenditure out of surplus funds for 1864:
Analytical statement of progress of public works borne on the budget of 1864:
Progress of expenditure on Surplus Fund Ordinances from 1857 to 1863, and the estimated expenditure for 1864:
Profit and loss on works undertaken as remunerative, from ditto to ditto ditto.

19. I enclose also copy of a report by the Civil Engineer and Commissioner of Roads on the state of the Public Works Department, and a report on the progress and expenditure on roads and receipts from tolls for the year 1863.

* The only Enclosures to this Despatch which are printed, are the Reports made by the several Government Agents on the state of their respective Provinces.

20. From the abstract attached to the Blue Book Return it will be seen that the total expenditure on public works during the past year amounted to 177,638*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Government money	134,921	7	1¼
Commutation money paid in assessment for labour under the Road Ordinance, and private contributions	22,126	5	4¾
Cost of establishment	20,590	10	0
	£177,638	2	6

As compared with 1862, the expenditure of 1863 shows an excess of 26,742*l.* 7*s.* 10½*d.*, that for 1862 being only 150,895*l.* 14*s.* 8½*d.*

21. The amount expended in opening new roads was 17,260*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.*, viz., 14,329*l.* 16*s.* 0½*d.* Government money, and 2,930*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* Road Ordinance funds and private contributions. Of these, the principal was the road from Palmadulla to Ballangodde, which was referred to in Sir Charles MacCarthy's Despatch No. 141. of the 20th August 1863, and on which a sum of 9,670*l.* 15*s.* 8¼*d* was expended last year.

22. The following are the amounts expended on some of the other new roads opened during the past year:

				£	s.	d.
Western Province.						
From the Government Factory, Colombo, through the railway station to Marandatin				1,000	0	0
Northern Province.						
From Manaar to Peesalle				500	0	0
From Pottoor to Kodigamoe				137	13	7½
Central Province.						
Two miles from the limit of the North-western Province to Dambool				411	5	8¼
Poondooloya Road Extension:—						
Private contribution	£1,302	4	4			
Government money	284	6	7			
				1,586	10	11
Dimboola District Road:—						
Private contribution	£1,405	0	0			
Government money	1,802	2	5¼			
				3,207	2	5¼
From Madoolkelle to Holloogange:—						
Private contribution	223	0	0			
Government money	300	0	0			
				523	0	0

23. The amount expended on the repair and up-keep of roads and canals was 86,049*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* of Government money, and 18,470*l.* 4*s.* 0¼*d.* of commutation money. The expenditure on canals and inland navigation amounted to 4,685*l.* 4*s.* 11¼*d.*, and the amount of tolls realized from canals was 3,438*l.* The cost of the repair of the road from Colombo to Galle and Hambantothe, a distance of 151 miles, was 8,335*l.* 15*s.* 3¾*d.*, and the receipt from tolls 7,114*l.* The expenditure on the road from Colombo to Kandy (72 miles) was 28,965*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*, whilst the receipt from tolls amounted to 34,741*l.*

24. A sum of 6,213*l.* 9*s.* 5¼*d.* was expended for new bridges, of which 17 were undertaken and 9 completed last year. Some of these were small and unimportant ones. The principal were the following:—

Central Province.

	£	s.	d.
Iron lattice bridge over the Nalanda Oya	2,524	3	0¾
Ditto over the Dambool Oya	225	8	6½
Ditto over the Leangalle Oya on the Knuckles Road	778	5	10
Ditto over the Dalook Oya on the Knuckles Road	1,120	4	8¼

Southern Province.

	£	s.	d.
Permanent bridge at Hickgodde	201	12	0
Bridge at Caloomoodere on the Galle Road	301	6	9¼
Permanent bridge at Minuangodde	275	0	0

25. The repair of bridges cost 2,889*l.* 6*s.* 2¼*d.*

26. The expenditure on new buildings was 5,233*l.* 7*s.* 2½*d.* The following were the most important of the buildings in progress last year:—

Western Province.

Girls' School, Pettah, Colombo	514	5	0
New Civil Hospital, Colombo	870	0	0
Industrial School	370	0	0
Singhalese Church, Colombo	314	11	9
Permanent warehouse, Caltura	260	0	0

North-western Province.

Assistant Government Agent's house, Putlam	300	0	0

Southern Province.

A new gaol at Galle	200	0	0

Northern Province.

Cutcherry at Anaradhapoora	118	12	5
Buildings for Public Works Department, Jaffna	178	13	1
Additional cutcherry accommodation at Jaffna	85	15	10

Central Province.

Court-house at Pusilawe	381	0	2
Cutcherry at Matelle	250	0	0
Police magistrate's residence, Pangwelle	150	0	0
Court-house at Dambool	48	17	3
Gaol at ditto	52	4	9

27. The amount expended on the repair of existing buildings was 7,077*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*; on drainage, ferry boats, and general service, 3,400*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*; miscellaneous services, which include the purchase of tools, the working of the Government factory, the purchase of draft cattle, subsistence of sick and newly-caught elephants, the importation of labourers from the coast of India, cost of construction of a small steam-tug for the transport of road materials in Jaffna, and sundry other services, amounted to 9,728*l.* 2*s.* 11¾*d.*

28. The above items are exclusive of the expenditure on military works, which amounted to 8,951*l.* 3*s.* 9¾.

Government Houses at Colombo, Galle, and Kandy.

29. The report of the Civil Engineer on the state of the Queen's Houses at Colombo and Galle and the Pavilion at Kandy shows that these houses are in fair order. Some repairs are required to the buildings at Colombo and Kandy, provision for which will be included in the estimates for 1865. From the enclosed report of the Deputy-Commissary-General, it will be seen that the furniture of the Queen's House at Colombo and the Pavilion at Kandy has been maintained in serviceable order.

Surveying Department.

30. The enclosed report of the Surveyor-General gives a most favourable account of the progress of his department during the past year. The total extent of Crown lands sold in 1863 was 28,003 acres, which realized 61,407*l.*; whilst in 1862 the extent sold was 15,794 acres, and the amount realized 35,173*l.* The land sales in the Central Province have been the most important, maintaining nearly the average rate of 2*l.* 8*s.* per acre of the preceding year. The extent disposed of during 1863 was 19,409 acres, being nearly double that of the preceding year, viz., 9,545 acres, the receipts being 40,378 in 1863 against 23,238 in 1862. Almost the whole of this area has been purchased for coffee cultivation.

In the Western Province, although the return is not so high as in the Central Province, it is still more favourable than that of the preceding year; 4,228 acres were

sold for 9,270*l.*, or at the rate of 2*l.* 4*s.* per acre in 1863; whilst in 1862 the extent sold was 3,778 acres, and the amount realized 6,217*l.*, being an average of 1*l.* 13*s.* per acre. As in the preceding year, the highest rate per acre was obtained in the Southern Province, where 1,217 acres were sold for 7,319*l.*, or at the rate of 6*l.* per acre. A great portion of this land is situated in localities where the paddy fields are under the influence of the Oroobokke Irrigation Works. The Surveyor-General notices one small garden land at Dondera, in extent 5a. 3r. 20p., which produced the high figure of 1,205*l.*, and was bought for Temple purposes. He remarks also that the cultivation of coffee is again about to be tried in the Morawe Corle, where two lots of 543 acres were purchased, it is believed, with this view.

31. In the other provinces, the results of Crown lands sold are as follows:—

Eastern Province	-	1,161 acres sold for 1,510*l.*, or 1*l.* 6*s.* per acre.
North-western Province		1,947 acres sold for 2,818*l.*, or 1*l.* 8*s.* per acre.
Northern Province	-	41 acres sold for 112*l.*, or 1*l.* 19*s.* per acre.

32. In addition to the Crown lands sold, 4,564 acres were alienated as encroachments sold or given at a valuation, lands granted at half valuation, free grants or settlements for certificates against the Crown, and the amount realized therefrom was 5,098*l.*

33. The total extent of land sold and otherwise disposed of in the several Provinces during the year was 32,567 acres, and the total receipts, including survey fees (6,306*l.*), amounted to 72,811*l.*, showing an increase as compared with the preceding year of 7,265 acres in the quantity sold, and of 32,916*l.* in the receipts.

34. The Surveyor-General mentions a fact in his report in connexion with this subject which deserves to be specially noticed. It appears that out of the total receipts of 72,811*l.* during the past year more than 48,000*l.* were paid by the natives; a circumstance which, whilst it indicates their prosperity, is satisfactory to the Government, who may now look forward for an extension of the sales of land throughout the several Provinces, whereas formerly they were chiefly confined to the Central Province.

Electric Telegraph.

35. I enclose the report of the Superintendent of Telegraphs on the working of the lines during the year 1863.

36. Owing to a change in the office of Superintendent and other causes, no steps could could be taken last year for the construction of the line from Kandy to Trincomalie, which had been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government. Shortly after the arrival of the present Superintendent, Mr. Bence, he proceeded to Trincomalie, and made arrangements for the commencement of the work, which is now in progress, and which it is hoped will be completed before October next.

37. On the recommendation of the late Superintendent, Mr. Cappel, the Government has sanctioned the construction of a second line between Colombo and Galle. This line is represented to be absolutely necessary, owing to the faulty state of the present line, which has become corroded and brittle, by the action of the air impregnated with salt.

38. The lines between Colombo and Kandy, and from the latter place to Manaar, are in tolerably good order; some of the posts are decayed, and will be renewed by new posts which have been purchased, which will make the line throughly secure.

39. The number of messages dispatched and received during the year was 22,951, exceeding that of 1862 (20,550) by 2,401. The total value of messages transmitted through the Ceylon lines was 11,383*l.* 19*s.* 10¼*d.*, of which a sum of 3,219*l.* 5*s.* 11¼*d.* was due to the Indian Government; and after deducting also the amount of postages on Indian messages, the net receipts in favour of the Ceylon Government was 7,547*l.* 4*s* 5¼*d.*, which exceed the receipts of the preceding year (3,886*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*) by 3,661*l.* 3*s.* 1¼*d.* Of this amount the small sum of 1,104*l.* 10*s.* 3¾*d.* only, was obtained from messages sent to and from different stations in this Island; the remainder being the value of messages passing through Ceylon to or from stations on the Indian lines. The total expenditure of the department during the year amounted to 4,923*l.* 3*s.* 5½*d.*, including 295*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.* for charges on account of repairs, being 202*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* in excess of the expenditure of 1862 (4,720*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*) Whilst in 1862 the expenditure exceeded the receipts by 834*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, there was a profit to Government on the operations of last year of no less than 2,624*l.* 0*s.* 11¾*d.* This is attributable chiefly to the new tariff of charges (fixing 200 miles as a single distance in Ceylon), which came into operation from December 1862, so that the anticipations of Sir Charles MacCarthy, expressed in his Despatch, No. 141, of the 20th August last. have been fully realized.

CEYLON.

40. It is satisfactory also to observe that there has been an improvement in the working of the lines, which is ascribed by the Superintendent to the introduction by Mr. Cappel of an effectual and cheap method of insulation. Whilst formerly the lines seldom worked well during rainy weather, such interruptions now rarely occur, and the Superintendent states that during the past year and up to the present time no lines could possibly have worked more successfully.

Railway.

41. I enclose copy of an interesting report from the Chief Resident Engineer Ceylon Railway, showing the progress of works from the commencement of the undertaking to the 30th June last.

42. For facilities of reference, Mr. Molesworth has divided the line into four divisions, viz.:

1st.	Division	from	Colombo	to 30th mile	= 30	miles.
2d.	„	„	30th mile	to 53rd „	= 23	„
3d.	„	„	53rd „	to 65th „	= 12	„
4th.	„	„	65th „	to Kandy	= 9	„

43. The third division includes all the heavy work on the mountain passes, the progress made on which will materially affect the time of the completion of the contract.

44. The works were commenced in March 1863. The progress made in the first and in part of the second division is such that there will be no difficulty in opening the line for traffic as far as Ambepusse, which is half way between Colombo and Kandy, by June next.

45. The total cost of work executed to the end of June last amounts to 355,684*l* or more than four tenths of the whole contract. Of this sum, 97,633*l*. represent permanent way materials and bridge work received from England, so that about 258,000*l*., or one third of the whole, represents the work done in Ceylon. Retentions, as a fund to guarantee the due performance of the contract, have been made to the amount of 25,000*l*. The whole of the advances on plant in Ceylon have been repaid by the contractor.

46. The earthworks from Colombo to the 30th mile are almost completed, and from the 30th to the 47th mile they are in an advanced state. On the difficult work of the pass about one third of the bulk of the cuttings and embankments have been completed.

47. The tunnels and rockwork on the incline are, from causes beyond control, rather behindhand. It was intended to have nine tunnels on the line; it is now proposed to convert four of these into open cuttings. Notwithstanding the difficulty of procuring labourers for work of this kind, and the unhealthiness of the season, the Chief Resident Engineer reports that there has not been any falling off in the progress of the tunnels, and the rate of progress which the miners have attained is such that he expects that they will all be completed at different periods from January 1865 to February 1866.

48. A great many of the bridges and culverts have been already finished, or are in course of construction. The erection of the bridge over the Kalanygange has been delayed by the non-arrival of a portion of the ironwork. An attempt made to commence the pier of the Maha Oya Bridge proved unsuccessful, owing to the setting in of the floods. Quarrying operations are now about to be commenced on the banks of the Mahavillegange, for the purpose of obtaining stone for the masonry of the bridge over that river.

49. The rails have been laid, with the exception of a short break at the Kalany Bridge, from Colombo to the 23d mile, or nearly one third of the total length; and it is expected that the line will be ready for locomotion to that distance as soon as the Kalany Bridge can be opened.

50. Fair progress has also been made in other descriptions of work; and it is hoped that, notwithstanding the difficulties which the contractor has had to encounter in obtaining labourers, and in retaining them in his service, and the interruptions to the work occasioned by the unusual amount of sickness which has been prevailing for the last few months, the railway may, with energy on the part of the contractor, be completed by the 2d February 1867, the time specified in the contract.

Legislation.

51. The session of the Legislative Council of 1863, which commenced in August, was continued till the beginning of the present year. Twenty Ordinances were enacted during the session. Of these, seventeen were passed in 1863, and the remainder at the commencement of the present year.

52. The object of Ordinance No. 1. was to confirm the contract entered into with the railway contractor for the completion of the railway between Colombo and Kandy. Although this contract was based on the resolutions passed by the Legislative Council in 1861, it was considered desirable, as it created a charge on the revenue of the Colony, that it should be formally ratified by a distinct legislative enactment.

53. Considerable difficulty having been experienced since the commencement of railway operations in obtaining possession of lands required for the line of railway, owing to the various requirements prescribed by the former law on this subject, it became necessary to amend it, and Ordinance No. 2. was passed with this view. Its objects are two-fold; first, to enable the Crown to take possession of private lands for public purposes; and, secondly, to survey and assess lands wanted by private proprietors to secure access to their properties through the lands of others. As regards lands to be taken for public purposes, the intervention of the Executive Council will not now be required, in the reference to the Surveyor-General to report on the necessity of taking the land, and in the order to issue the commission to assess it, these steps being left to the Governor, and the intervention of the Council being prescribed only in the final decision to take possession of the land. In the case of lands required by private proprietors, to secure access to their properties, the intervention of the Executive Council has been retained in every stage of the proceedings to be taken. The other amendments made had reference to the period of notice to be given to the owner of the land, which has been reduced from one month to three weeks, and to the number of jurymen, which has also been reduced from thirteen to seven, which was considered amply sufficient for the protection of private rights.

54. No. 3. was passed with the view to amend Ordinance No. 14. of 1863, for the prevention of accidents by gunpowder, so as not to make the provisions of the latter enactment applicable to gunpowder intended for the use of Her Majesty's military or naval stores, and in the custody of of the proper military or naval authorities.

55. Ordinance No. 4. authorizes district courts to institute inquiries into wrecks. This duty was imposed by Ordinance No. 5. of 1861, which was founded on the Merchant Shipping Act of 1854, on police courts, assisted by nautical assessors. The Merchant Shipping Act, 1862, having enlarged the powers of these local tribunals, it became necessary to make an alteration in their constitution, and the duty has accordingly been transferred to district courts, assisted, if need be, by nautical assessors.

56. Ordinance No. 5. provides for the extension to certain places of some of the provisions of Ordinance No. 17. of 1844. A question having been raised as to the jurisdiction of certain police branch stations established in some of the outlying districts, which were not maintained by a local assessment, as required by the Ordinance of 1844, it became necessary to pass this enactment, with a view to remove all doubts on the subject, and to extend to the police the protection afforded by the Ordinance referred to.

57. Ordinance No. 6. provides for the snpplementary contingent charges of the year 1863.

58. No. 7., relating to merchant shipping, was called for by the necessity for making provision for the engagement, protection, and discipline of merchant seamen, and for establishing regulations for securing competency on the part of masters of vessels.

59. No. 8., "to provide for the registration of titles to land and of all deeds affecting land," was a measure the want of which had long been felt. Its objects are two-fold; first, to provide for a registration of titles and incumbrances founded on a survey in such a manner as to secure extreme facility and absolute certainty in the ascertainment of such titles and incumbrances; secondly, to provide for the immediate interim registration of all alienations and incumbrances which may be effected previous to the introduction of the provisions, based on a survey, in a manner which, though not as perfect and satisfactory as that in connexion with the survey, will yet prevent frauds, which are practised with perfect impunity for want of some system of registration of incumbrances. Certain amendments in this Ordinance were suggested by his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, which will be embodied in an Ordinance to be laid before the Legislative Council at its present Session.

60. Ordinance No. 9., to extend and make compulsory the practice of vaccination, was passed with a view to check the progress of smallpox, which, since the abolition of the quarantine laws, had spread unchecked in various parts of the Island.

61. Ordinance No. 10. is intended to provide a remedy for the evils arising from the possession of lands in common, and of the division of them into very minute parcels.

62. No. 11., to regulate the temporal affairs of churches not provided for in the Ordinance No. 12. of 1846, was found to be necessary, as the Ordinance of 1846 had

CEYLON.

reference only to Episcopalian churches, and no provision had been made for regulating the temporalities of churches other than Episcopalian, or churches not exclusively Episcopalian. By your Despatch No. 92. of the 26th May last you suggested certain alterations in this Ordinance, which will be embodied in an amended Ordinance which the Queen's Advocate has been instructed to prepare.

63. Ordinance No. 12. provides for the contingent charges of 1864.

64. No. 13., "to amend in certain respects the law of marriages in this island, and to provide for the better registration thereof," was a measure the want of which had long been felt. It is based on a Despatch from the Duke of Newcastle, No 134., of the 31st July 1863, and provides simply for the civil registration of marriages, leaving all religious questions untouched, and all religious ceremonies to be performed according to the rites of each particular church or religion, without in anywise affecting the civil validity of the marriages so celebrated; permitting, however, the religious solemnity to constitute a contract cognizable by law if it be performed according to the rules prescribed by law.

65. No. 14. authorizes the establishment of tolls on the road from Gordon's Bridge to Kadigamowa, which was rendered necessary by the increased traffic on the road.

66. No. 15. amends Ordinance No. 14. of 1845, which limited the period for which written contracts could be entered into with pioneers for the department of Public Works to three years. It was found, in consequence of the greater expenditure incurred in bringing persons from the coast of India to serve as pioneers, that this period was not sufficient to reimburse the Government for the expenditure which it had to defray on this account, and the term was therefore extended to five years.

67. The object of Ordinance No 16. is to extend to labourers employed in the construction of the line of railway between Colombo and Kandy the provisions of Ordinance No. 20. of 1861, relating to the hire and service of labourers, which were applicable only to agricultural labourers, it being desirable that every encouragement should be afforded to the contractor to carry on this undertaking.

68. No. 17. was a private Bill empowering certain persons to construct and use a road through lands belonging to certain other persons, the interference of the Legislature having been found to be necessary in consequence of the unreasonable opposition of some of the parties to give the required access through their properties.

69. Ordinance No. 1. of 1864, though passed at the commencement of this year, was a measure introduced during the session of 1863. It consolidates and amends in certain respects the law touching justices of the peace in criminal cases. The law bearing on this subject being scattered over several Ordinances, considerable difficulty was experienced by justices of the peace in ascertaining the exact nature of their duties and the powers vested in them; it was therefore desirable to consolidate the law so that justices might be enabled to act with decision and promptitude. The Ordinance also simplifies and amends the former law, and several new provisions have been introduced which were rendered necessary by local circumstances. By your Despatch No. 86. of the 10th May last you suggested certain modifications in this Ordinance, in respect to which I have solicited further instructions by my Despatch No. 147. of the 15th July last.

70. The object of Ordinance No. 2. of 1864, which amends Ordinance No. 26. of 1852, is to prevent persons selling salt on behalf of Government from demanding a higher price than that fixed by Government; a practice which was found to prevail at Jaffna, and which was equally injurious to the revenue and the public, who were liable to gross extortion, from which they were without any protection, as the law made no provision which would reach the offence.

71. Ordinance No. 3. of 1864, "to apply a portion of the surplus revenue of past "years towards payment of the expenses of constructing the line of railway between "Colombo and Kandy," was passed in conformity with instructions received from the Duke of Newcastle.

Population.

72. The total population of all classes of inhabitants for 1863 is given in the returns at 2,342,098, showing an excess of 262,217 over the population of the preceding year.

73. The following are the numbers of births, marriages, and deaths in 1863, as appearing in the returns:—

Births - - - -	48,589
Marriages - - -	23,581
Deaths - - - -	30,024

Public Health.

74. The enclosed Report from the Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer gives an account of the diseases which prevailed in Ceylon, and of their progress, during 1863. The Island, he says, was visited with cholera and periodic outbreaks of fever, but not to the extent to which these diseases prevailed in former years. Smallpox existed throughout the year, and to a greater extent than in 1862. The other diseases which prevailed here were whooping cough, measles, bowel complaints, sore throats of a mild form, catarrh, and chicken-pox.

75. Cholera did not assume an epidemic form. It made its appearance only at Colombo and Kaigalle in the Western Province, at Arippo in the Northern Province, and at Kandy and Matelle in the Central Province. There were but very few cases on the whole, the total number reported being only 19, of which six proved fatal. In 1862 the number of cases was 2,594, and the number of deaths 1,488.

76. Smallpox, which was on the decline in the beginning of 1863, gradually increased, and became epidemic about the middle of the year. It spread throughout the whole Island; one station only, Hambantothe, being free from it. It was on the decline towards the end of the year, but still there were several cases remaining at that period in different parts of the Island. The total number of cases reported in 1863 was 2,661, and the number of deaths 502. In 1862 the number of cases was 2,190, and the number of deaths 336, the rate of mortality being 18 per cent. in 1863, and 15 per cent. in 1862.

77. The Ordinance to make vaccination compulsory, which Sir Charles MacCarthy stated in his Despatch No. 141. of the 20th August 1863 it was his intention to bring forward, was passed last year, and will be gradually brought into operation in different parts of the Island, commencing from Colombo in the Western Province, when it is hoped that the difficulties which have hitherto existed in carrying on vaccination will to a great extent be removed. The results attending the efforts made last year to extend vaccination were more satisfactory than those of the preceding one; the total number vaccinated in 1863 was 79,295, of which 57,378 were reported as successful. The numbers in 1862 were, vaccinated 77,011, successful operations 56,884.

78. The Report of the Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer contains also valuable and interesting information as to the state of the Medical Department, and of the several hospitals in the Island, and the cases treated in them.

Education.

79. I enclose a copy of the Twentieth Report of the Central School Commission for the period from the 1st July 1862 to the 30th June 1863, which gives a full account of the Government Schools up to the middle of last year.

80. The returns for 1863, as compared with those for the previous year, show an increase of 230 in the number of pupils in the Government Schools; the numbers being 5,748 in 1863 against 5,588 in 1862, and an increase of 83 in the average daily attendance. This increase is ascribed partly to the addition of five new schools which were established last year.

Owing to the discontinuance of grants to two schools, and the giving of a grant to one, there is a decrease of one in the number of aided schools, with a corresponding decrease of 36 in the number of pupils attending those schools, and a decrease of 11 in the average daily attendance.

81. The expenditure by the Government on account of Education in 1863 amounted to 14,520*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, showing an increase of 420*l.* 16*s.* 0¼*d.* as compared with that of 1862, which amounted to 14,099*l.* 7*s.* 6¾*d.* The school fees amounted to 2,241*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*, being an increase of 37*l.* 6*s.* 3½*d.* over the receipts from this source in 1862.

82. In the male orphan school supported by Government there were 22 boys in 1863, and 25 in 1862. In the female orphan school the number of girls in 1863 was 16, and in 1862, 24.

83. The boys' orphan school is under the charge of the chaplain of St. Peter's Church, Colombo, and the female school is entrusted to the management of a committee of ladies.

84. On the recommendation of these ladies, Sir Charles MacCarthy authorized last year the advantages of the female orphan school being extended to the children of others than European soldiers, on certain conditions. Owing to the reduction of the military force in the Island, the number of inmates in the asylum has been much diminished, but notwithstanding such diminution it was necessary to maintain a staff for the care of the military orphans remaining in the institution. The urgent solicitations which have

CEYLON. from time to time been made to Government for the admission of children other than military show the necessity for some such home for orphan children. Sir Charles MacCarthy, therefore, on the recommendation of the ladies' committee, approved of the children to be admitted into the institution being classed under three heads:—

1st. Female orphans of married soldiers and non-commissioned officers dying in service in Ceylon, to be admitted on the application and recommendation of the officer in command of the regiment; but in case of the death of the mother only, to be admitted on the father paying into the school the amount that would have been stopped for the child's rations.

2d. The fatherless children of any one dying in Government employ in Ceylon, to be admitted on prepayment to the Government of thirty pounds.

3rd. Orphans of Europeans dying in Ceylon to be also admitted on prepayment of thirty pounds.

85. It was not intended by these alterations to establish an orphanage to be maintained by Government; it was only hoped that by this scheme the asylum would cost less than formerly, whilst relief would be given in cases of urgent necessity.

86. There are twelve regimental schools. Two of these are for the instruction of the children of the European soldiers in the garrison of Colombo. Of the remaining ten, five are adult schools for non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Ceylon Rifle Regiment, who are taught reading and writing in English and Malay, and five for the sons of the soldiers of that corps. The number of pupils attending the regimental schools last year was 674; the number in 1862 was 822.

87. The returns furnished by the different missionary bodies in Ceylon show that there has been an extension in the efforts made by them to spread education in the Island. There is an increase in the number of missionary schools last year, as compared with that of the preceding year, of 192 schools, and in the number of pupils of 6,169.

88. The following is an abstract of the schools belonging to the different missions:

——	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel - - -	173	6,420
Church Missionary Society - - -	89	3,086
Wesleyan Missionary Society - - -	112	4,316
Baptist Missionary Society - - -	13	461
American Missionary Society - - -	53	1,658
Roman Catholic Missionary Society - -	79	3,739
Total - - - - -	519	19,680

89. The Wesleyan and the Roman Catholic Missions received in support of their schools in the Northern Province grants in aid from the Government, the former to the amount of 302*l.* 10*s.*, and the latter 200*l.*

90. There is a decrease in the number of private schools, which in 1863 was 281, whilst the number in 1862 was 784; but there is not a proportionate diminution in the number of pupils attending these schools, which in 1863 was 5,380, being less by only 128 than the number of pupils in 1862, viz., 5,508.

91. Prefixed to the Blue Book Returns will be found a table giving a statistical view of the progress of this Colony from the years 1821 to 1863 inclusive, and an abstract of the principal statistical results for the years 1862 and 1863, prepared in the form suggested by the International Statistical Congress at the Meeting held in London in 1860.

92. I enclose also Reports from the several Government Agents on the state of their respective Provinces.

93. These documents contain most useful and interesting information on various matters connected with this Colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) TERENCE O'BRIEN,
Major-General.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.
&c, &c. &c.

CEYLON.

SIR, Government Agent's Office, Colombo, August 22, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to submit to Government my report on the Western Province for 1863.

The revenue for 1863, compared with that of the immediately preceding year, shows a collective increase of 12,226*l.* 8*s.* 6¼*d.* The decrease under particular heads is counterbalanced by the augmentations from the following sources:

Plumbago,
Agriculture,
Licences,
Land Sales.

The development of the plumbago trade has been remarkable, and as the mineral is used extensively in machinery, it is probable that the progress of the social war in America has had some influence upon it.

The quantity exported during the year was not less than 2,620¼ tons, a large proportion having been raised on Crown lands, and contributed an export duty, as well as helped to swell the territorial revenue.

The demand for the article is so persistent that the trade received no discouragement, though the royalty was raised from 5*s.* to 14*s.* in 1862, and to 16*s.* per ton in February last.

The best samples of plumbago are found in the Rygam and Pasdoon corles, and several allotments of land known or believed to contain veins of the mineral, not exceeding an acre in extent, have been sold to private parties at prices varying from 60*l.* to 300*l.*

An unusual drought which prevailed through two thirds of the year had almost destroyed the yalla crops. The partial rains, however, proved sufficient to prevent any serious disappointment till the commencement of the present year, and the enhanced price of grain secured above the average returns from the paddy sales in 1863.

The distillation of arrack always receives a check in dry seasons, and there was a marked falling off during the year in the quantity distilled. The arrack renters were prepared to make a grievance of the high prices they were consequently called upon to pay for the spirit, but soon reconciled themselves to smaller profits than usual, and were not deterred from purchasing the rents of 1864 on terms still more favourable to Government.

The experiment induced by the extortions practised by the arrack renters of Caltura, of selling a limited number of taverns separately, instead of farming them in the mass, proved successful, as in a distillery district in which the facilities for illicit consumption of arrack are great it not only brought in a larger revenue, but admitted of the suppression of 57 taverns, the centres equally of intemperance and other crimes.

Convinced that this system may by degrees be advantageously introduced into other parts of the country, I have, under favouring circumstances, succeeded in obtaining the sanction of Government for its introduction into the town of Colombo, where the control of the taverns, from police considerations alone, ought always to be retained in the hands of Government.

The management of this change cannot fail to give additional trouble to the department of the Government agent, but no one who has any experience of the system to be displaced can doubt either the propriety or necessity of some remedy.

For the result of the land sales I am indebted to the zealous services of the Surveyor General, which has enabled me to dispose of numerous allotments within the Marandahu cinnamon garden for building purposes, without forcing, and so causing a depreciation of such land in the market; to reclaim encroachments in the several districts which the lapse of a few years would have confirmed in private possession, but are now held under honest titles by the several occupants, who, having paid for their land, have every motive for bringing them into the fullest cultivation; and to facilitate the acquisition, on moderate terms, of extensive paddy lands in the Rygam and Pasdoon corles, and in Caltura, hitherto held on the ande tenure, which is knowe to be a serious discouragement to all improvement.

I have before this had occasion to remark on the disproportionate returns from the higher and lower rates of tax, and the desirableness, by sale of the lands on which the higher rates are paid, of introducing an uniform tax on all paddy lands, which should not exceed the lowest rate now levied on any, viz., 1/10th.

The opening of new coffee districts in Saffragam, at the limits both of the Central and Southern Provinces, has also beneficially affected the revenue, and will continue to do so on an increased ratio in future years.

The only subject of regret to be recorded, in connexion with the operations of the Surveyor-General's Department, is that a perpetuation of the benefits of the recent settlement by the Temple Lands Commissioners should not have been secured by surveys, and that the claims of private individuals who made deposits under the Minute of 8th August 1844 should not have received the attention they deserve, considering the length of time the depositors have been kept without the promised transfers, and the fact that one of the strongest arguments for reinforcing the establishment of the Surveyor-General in 1858 was the obligation the Government felt itself to be under to fulfil its engagements to these depositors, the neglect of which was acknowledged to be a reproach.

The adjudications of the Temple Lands Commissioners affect no less than 5,289 acres of arable land, 40,000 acres of forest which could be sold at once if surveyed, and 35,000 acres of temple property. The importance of defining permanently the limits of the latter can only be appreciated by duly weighing the cost to the public of supporting during eight years the establishment called

CEYLON.

into existence under the Ordinance No. 10 of 1856, and the certainty that the outlay and labour will have absolutely been thrown away unless this be promptly done.

The Kandy Road has been restored to perfect order since the date of my last Report, and the Orwah planters are already availing themselves of the outlet for their produce afforded by the Ballangodde Road, which has been extended to the foot of the Happootelle Pass. As the traffic on the Ballangodde Road is expected to be very heavy during the current year, owing to the prosperous state of the estates to which it leads, and as the portion of it lying between Pelmadulla and Tiriwanekettia is scarcely passable, notwithstanding that private means and efforts have recently added to those of Government to keep it open, I submit for the consideration of Government the desirableness of having this portion immediately metalled, and of further facilities being afforded for the transport of goods from Tiriwanekettia to Colombo, either by the removal of the obstacles offered by the rapids on the Kalu Gange, or by cutting a new channel for the river, by which they may be avoided, in the neighbourhood of Nambapanne. I have reason to believe the latter improvement could be effected at a comparatively small cost.

The railway, the land for which above Polgahawelle and much under that station was only taken up between May and June last year, owing to the auspicious state of the weather advanced rapidly in the low situations. The contractors judiciously employed the villagers along the line in the construction of the embankments, and at the commencement of the present year I had the satisfaction of being able to ride over tracts of country where only a few months before I had found it difficult to make my way even on foot. The incompleteness of the bridge over the Kalany River is the only hinderance to the steam train being put at once into use for the first section of the line.

I beg to refer to my Report for 1862 for numerous works which the interests of the community render necessary to be undertaken as soon as possible. To those should be added the improvement of the Colombo Lake, and the several streets of the town, such as Bankshall Street and Sea Street, by opening passages from the sea, in positions forming a continuation of the cross streets, both for the better ventilation of the town, and for increased cleanliness in those localities.

These requirements have been brought under the notice of Government by the committee appointed to report on the state of the lake and by the Board of Health, but cannot be properly omitted here.

The Provincial Road Committee, in anticipation of aid from Government, have taken steps for the purchase of a steam dredge for the lake; and I am of opinion that the prisoners of the Hulfsdorp Gaol, if withdrawn from all other works and strictly applied to this, would not only be suitably but usefully employed.

The prison labour set down at a certain daily value would show the annual cost of every improvement connected with the lake, and the social and sanitary advantages derivable from it.

There is a considerable bank of sand on the premises of the railway terminus, which, were the prisoners at once engaged to transport, it would help to fill up the shallow part of the lake behind the mosque at Marandahu, and the land reclaimed would be worth at least 5,000*l*. In the same way the pestilential canal at Kayman's Gate might be filled up, with equal advantage to the Treasury and the public health.

I beg to refer to the proposals of the Lake Committee for the details of both schemes, and to state that both the Government engineer and the railway contractor have approved of that first mentioned, and are prepared to afford assistance in the way of tramways, &c., and to carry it out.

The minor roads in every part of the province have been kept up in the state of efficiency consistent with the means at command, but cannot be metalled or extended from a want of funds. This want is particularly felt in respect of roads leading to the railway stations, the conveyance of railway materials along which has severely tested the strength of the bridges, many of which require immediate removal, and without the aid of Government, for which an appeal has been made by the Provincial Road Committee, will soon become impracticable.

The health of the country throughout the year was excellent, and the prosperity of the inhabitants of that portion of it through which the railway passes unprecedented. The money earned by the employment afforded by the railway contractors, and the liberal compensation granted for lands purchased for railway purposes, has been generally vested in the acquisition and improvement of new lands, in a manner calculated to confer an enduring benefit in numerous families.

I have, &c.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary. (Signed) C. P. LAYARD,
Government Agent.

SIR, Government Agent's Office, Kurnegalle, July 15, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the annual Report on this Province called for by your circular letter of the 1st March last.

I have, &c.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary. (Signed) H. O'GRADY,
Government Agent.

ANNUAL REPORT for 1863 of the Revenue, Expenditure, and State of the North-western Province. CEYLON.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The total amount of revenue collected in the North-western Province in the year 1863 was 80,921*l.* 16*s.* 0¾*d.*, showing an excess of 15,204*l.* 4*s.*, equal to 23·13 per cent. over the revenue of the preceding year (1862), which amounted to 65,717*l.* 12*s.* 0¾*d.*

2. This statement does not include the receipts under the Thoroughfares Ordinance, which amounted during the year to 6,108*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*

3. The following is an abstract of the particulars of the receipts in the two years 1862 and 1863:

	1862.	1863.
Arrears of Revenue	£1,221 18 9	£1,355 5 4¼
Land Sales	1,917 2 11	2,654 11 1
Grain Tax	6,796 11 11¼	18,104 4 4½
Salt Monopoly	38,370 10 0	39,154 14 8
Arrack Farm	11,444 13 5	12,734 3 11
Timber	36 6 9½	199 12 11
Tolls	1,839 19 8	2,634 12 6
Licences	545 18 6	536 8 6
Stamps	2,301 13 1	2,404 16 8¼
Postage	68 17 5	79 18 8½
Judicial Receipts	591 1 7	539 9 2
All other items	582 18 0	523 18 1¾

4. The total expenditure of the year amounted to 19,580*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*, showing a balance in favour of revenue of 61,340*l.* 16*s.* 8¼*d.*, and an increase upon the expenditure of 1862 of 2,644*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*

5. The revenue debts on the 31st December 1863 amounted to 18,717*l.* 19*s.* 6¾*d.* Of this amount the particulars are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1. Arrears deemed recoverable	1,477	5	3½
2. Do. irrecoverable	16,828	18	5¼
3. Do. awaiting decision of Courts	411	15	10

In my Report dated from Putlam the 31st of January 1856 I stated that the arrears of revenue up to 30th June of the year amounted to 26,743*l.* 8*s.* 4½*d.*, and of that amount that 18,070*l.* 2*s.* 1½*d.*, being clearly irrecoverable, it was advisable that authority should be obtained to write them off the accounts of this Province. Since that date authority has been received (September 1860) to write off 1,834*l.* 17*s.* 9½*d.* from the accounts; and from 1855 to December 1863 the recoveries made have reduced the arrears to 18,717*l.* 19*s.* 6¾*d.*, of which, as stated above, 16,828*l.* 18*s.* 5¼*d.* are considered irrecoverable.

Sale of Crown Lands.

6. The revenue under this head for the district of Seven Corles in 1863 did not exceed 418*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, while at Putlam the amount realized by the sale of Crown lands was 2,236*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, showing an increase of 329*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* in that district upon the sales of the previous year. In reporting such increase, Mr. Mitford makes the following remarks:—"There was an increase of "329*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* in the sale of Crown lands, a surveyor having been stationed in the district, and "it will depend on a permanent surveyor being retained in the district whether the revenue from "this source will continue to improve or fall off."

Grain.

7. The very large amount of revenue (18,104*l.* 4*s.* 4½*d.*) realized from grain in 1863, compared with that derived from the same source of revenue in the immediately preceding year (which did not exceed 6,796*l.* 11*s.* 11¼*d.*) affords evidence of the more extended cultivation which even a single season of propitious weather is calculated to induce, where the cultivation of grain, as in the district of Seven Corles, depends entirely on the timeliness and abundance of the supply of water from rain, and not on artificial irrigation. The like seasonable weather at Putlam resulted in favourable harvests in that district, and, as compared with 1862, produced an increase in the revenue from grain of 1,480*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* The increase under this head of 11,307*l.* 12*s.* 5¼*d.* over the preceding year may therefore be apportioned as follows:—Kurnegalle, 9,827*l.* 10*s.* 10¼*d.*; Putlam, 1,480*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*

Salt.

8. The weather which in the early part of 1863 proved so favourable to agriculture was so far detrimental to the collection of salt that, from the reports laid before me by the Assistant Agent of Putlam, it deterred many of the manufacturers from commencing operations even when more suitable weather had set in. Mr. Mitford remarks, that "those who began in good time secured "a good crop; but the negligence of others caused a considerable falling off in the collection "as compared with the previous year." Nevertheless, at the end of the year there was a quantity of 237,000 cwts. on hand, equal to the consumption for one year and eight months, securely got in.

9. The Government is already in possession of the views and opinions of the several Assistant Agents who have succeeded each other in the local charge of the salt districts since the completion

CEYLON. of the permanent stores at Putlam, regarding the expediency of turning these costly structures to account. Mr. Mitford and Mr. Russell have uniformly represented them to be, not only in design ill adapted to the purposes for which they were intended, but in their construction and the choice of materials calculated to induce a considerable wastage of the salt stored in them; while Mr. Macready, without condemning them so absolutely as his predecessors, was inclined to believe that the constructing of temporary stores, at a small outlay annually, in the immediate vicinity of the salt pans, would prove a less costly measure to Government than would that of transporting the salt from the pans to the stores in question. The correspondence on the subject of these stores has been voluminous, and (as is not unusual in such cases) has left the main question unsettled, whether they should or should not be used. My own opinion is, that where structures of the kind have been raised, with a defined object, at so large a public cost, the first thing to be done is to give them a fair trial, and let experience pronounce whether it is in the original design that some radical vice or in the subsequent construction of them that some incurable defect exists which renders it inexpedient to continue to use them as depôts for the storage of the particular commodity which it was intended to deposit in them. It will be time to condemn them after such defects shall have been demonstrated. In the meanwhile it is impossible to deny that most of the objections which have been raised against the use of these stores are conjectural. I do not for a moment wish to make light of the apprehensions which able and experienced men, practically acquainted with the management of the Salt Department, have entertained, and have not shrunk from expressing, regarding the expediency of using these stores; but the Department of Public Works, by which they were constructed, and which must be deemed responsible for any defects in their plan or construction which may eventually cause them to be disused, cannot be expected to concur in a condemnation which, resting upon no experimental foundation, may turn out to have been based on partial and erroneous inferences. I have already in a former Report drawn attention to the very variable (and one might almost say capricious) results exhibited in salt stores the contents of which had been derived from the same pans and subject to the same atmospherical influences and local conditions of storage. From this I would hold that, where, as in the storage of salt, the application of the same tests does not produce uniformly the same results, caution should be observed in forming conclusions, and that before any store be condemned, on theoretical objections, as an unsuitable depôt for the storing of salt, or even on objections found applicable in practice to other stores, such trial of it should be made as would effectually dissipate or confirm the apprehensions concerning its defects which may have been entertained. If this be the proper course to adopt in respect of salt stores generally, it would appear to be especially the one to pursue as regards the salt depôts now under consideration, which were clearly designed as model stores, wherein, "when properly drained, protected "and sub-divided, the real amount of wastage might be tested, and furnish the means of determining, "once for all, what in future should be the fixed rate per cent. to be allowed on that account on the "collection of salt received in store."

I have only to add, as regards these stores, that they are built on the "compartment system," each store being divided into fourteen internal partitions of the like size and capacity, with a view to the periodical verification of stock, without the expense or time required to weigh it. Each division is supposed capable of containing 2,000 cwts.; the two stores, therefore, would admit of 56,000 cwts. being deposited in them.

The manufacture of 1863 closed on the 31st October, and yielded 132,038 cwts. The following statement shows the quantity received in store, or housed in kottoos and on platforms, on the 31st December 1863.

——	In Stores.	In Kottoos.	On Platforms.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Putlam, North	13,331	—	65,310
Putlam, South	16,955	—	—
Calpentyn	10,470	—	—
Natchically	14,800	—	—
Caraitivoe	—	11,172	—
Chilaw	—	—	—
Total - Cwts.	55,556	11,172	65,310

Public Works.

* * * * * *

12. The whole amount voted by the Legislature for the upkeep and repair of the roads, bridges, and canals of this province during the year 1863 was 8,931*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, of which 5,904*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* was to be charged against the general revenue of the Colony, and 3,027*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* against the labour due from the inhabitants of the Province, under the provisions of the Road Ordinance.

13. Of the condition and state of repair of the principal thoroughfares in the district of Seven Corles it is but justice to say that the roads have been maintained by the district officer of Kurnegalle, Mr. P. Cummins, in a remarkably efficient state. The road from Kurnegalle to Putlam in particular was the subject of general praise on the part of the numerous strangers to the district

who resorted to Kurnegalle at the time of the elephant kraal, which was organized in August last; and I may add that the portion of the same road which is comprised within the Putlam District, being eighteen miles in extent, has been maintained in the like excellent order, under the supervision of Mr. Mason.

14. Reporting on the main roads and water communication of his district, Mr. Mitford observes:—

"In consequence of the opening and improvement of the inland canal from Putlam to Colombo, "the export of salt by sea to Colombo may be said to have entirely ceased, and the districts which "do not produce salt, but more especially Colombo and the Western Province, are no longer at the "mercy of the precarious seaborne supply by native boats, which for six months of the year dared "not venture to put to sea; consequently, while the supply of this necessary article was restricted, "the price was exorbitantly enhanced. The opening of this canal was one of the first works which "the late lamented Sir Henry Ward resolved should be carried out, and the result has fully justified "his far-seeing policy. The other districts are supplied with salt all the year round with the greatest "regularity; the traffic in general merchandise has increased; cocoa-nut estates have been opened "along its banks; and the tolls, which in 1862 were 275*l.*, and had increased in 1863 to 465*l.*, more "than paying for its upkeep, for I find that the whole expenditure on the canal for 1863, including "new cuts and tow-paths, as well as upkeep, was 536*l.*, only 296*l.* of which was contributed by the "general revenue, and the remaining 240*l.* by local assessment under the Road Ordinance.

"15. The main road to Colombo passes through sandy tracts as far as Madampe, and the want "of proper material, joined to the small amount allowed for its upkeep, 566*l.* on an extent of 55 "miles, prevents any great improvement being effected, and is barely sufficient to keep up the line "passable. One of the great obstacles to traffic on this road is the inefficient state in which the "boats at the ferries are kept at the Dedro Oya and Batool Oya rivers; the very inferior workman-"ship of the class of artisans in this country is one great cause of early deterioration of these boats, "and the necessity for their frequent repairs and changes interferes with the regularity of the "passage. I look upon the Batool Oya ferry as one of the curiosities of Ceylon. This water is an "artificial tank; and whereas by a slight detour, which would not lengthen it 200 yards, the road "might be carried either along the embankment to the west or above the tank to the east, with one "bridge for the watercourse, it now abuts on either side of the deepest part of the pool, with a ferry "boat to keep up a precarious communication.

"The road to Anoradhapoora has been kept in passable order, at an expense of 339*l.*, and some "work has been done on the north road, which is now, however, nearly abandoned."

16. The expenditure for the upkeep and repair of the minor roads throughout the province (including the Government grant-in-aid, 466*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*) amounted during the year to 2,712*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*

* * * * *

17. As regards the minor roads of this district, I shall confine myself to stating, in this Report, that I consider it highly desirable that two of them, viz., the road from Kurnegalle to Girioulle, and the road from Kurnegalle to Matelle, be taken over by the department of the Commissioner of Roads, under the provisions of the Ordinance No. 10. of 1861, and be declared to be principal thoroughfares from the first day of January 1865. On comparing the number of minor roads in the District of Seven Corles with the resources of the District Committee (which I need not point out consist merely of the remaining amount of labour not appropriated for the works executed by the Commissioner of Roads), it will be obvious to Government that the requirements for the upkeep of so many as twelve roads, comprising in their extent 214 miles, exceed the resources at the Committee's disposal, and that the annual expenditure on each road is consequently insufficient to ensure its being maintained in as proper a state of repair as would be desirable. The road from Kurnegalle to Matelle, in particular, would require an expenditure, for the construction of bridges, drains, &c., quite out of proportion with the amount which the Committee could afford to apportion to such road. On the other hand, if taken over by the department of the Commissioner of Roads, the establishment of a toll at one extremity of the road, as also of another at the bridge which would have to be thrown over the Cospottoo Oya, would, it is surmised, soon cover the expense of the necessary works consequent upon the road being declared a principal thoroughfare. The question assumes particular importance just at present, when the anticipated completion of the railway as far as Polgahawelle by the end of next year renders it desirable that the line of communication between that station and Matelle should be so improved as to offer every facility to the planters of the latter district to avail themselves of it to transport their coffee to the railway.

18. "A fair amount of work (Mr. Mitford reports) has been done on the several minor roads and "streets from the Ordinance labour funds, affording the natives the convenience of communication "between their villages and the principal stations; but as regards the large minor road from "Madampe to Topoe, it has been very much neglected, for, although Government granted the tolls "levied on the road, amounting to 685*l.*, for the repair of this road, the benefit of this grant was "sacrificed by the neglect of the Commissioner of Roads department in omitting to include the "amount in the list of works submitted to the Legislative Council, consequently the work could "not be carried on, and is still in abeyance."

19. The only work undertaken and completed in 1863 in the District of Seven Corles being a brick sewer 600 feet in length, leading from the gaol of Kurnegalle, and the other public buildings proposed to be constructed during the year in the town, not having been sanctioned by the Legislature, I have only to state, generally, that the existing Government buildings of the district were kept in repair, and the bridges attended to and kept in good order. From Putlam, Mr. Mitford reports as follows, concerning the new buildings constructed in that district:

CEYLON.

New Buildings Putlam.

" A new house was built in 1863 for the Assistant Government Agent, at an expense of upwards " of 1,000*l.* In 1862, before leaving this district for Trincomalie, I considered it my duty to " protest against the plan of the proposed building as bad, and on my return I find that my " prognostications are fully realized. Although I was not consulted in the matter, yet as being in " charge of the district some part of the responsibility might be attributed to me. I think it right " to state the facts.—After the work had been sanctioned, a plan and estimate were sent in by the " local Assistant to the Commissioner of Roads and Civil Engineer. The plan was somewhat " elaborate, but with some modifications would have been well adapted for a family residence, and " creditable to Government. The estimate, however, did not exceed 1,000*l.*

" When this was referred to the Head Office of the Department in Colombo, whether it was that " there was no draughtsman in the office capable of drawing the plan of a house, or (if required) " modifying that already drawn, or from whatever cause, the estimate was adopted unaltered, while " the plan on which it was based was simply set aside, and a parallelogram of 144 feet by 25, such " as a child would draw on a slate, sent back to be substituted; side verandahs on wooden posts " were added, and a more uninhabitable barn I never was in. I have already reported cracks in " the walls, and there are no ceilings. When it rains it is necessary to carry an umbrella indoors. " I have already suffered seriously in health from living in this house, but as there is no other house " to be hired I am compelled to remain in it."

Railway.

20. The line of Railway from Colombo to Kandy, immediately after crossing the Maha Oya, enters the village Yatalgodde in Seven Corles, at the 36th mile and 8th chain, and proceeding through Katogampole, Oodoogaha and Odepolle-ottete Corles, leaves the district at Panelia, at the 48th mile and 16th chain, showing the distance from the entrance of the line into Seven Corles to its egress to be 12 miles and 16 chains.

21. Under instructions from Government, I proceeded, in the month of July 1863, to assess the amount of compensation to be made under the provisions of the Ordinance No. 4. of 1850 in respect of the lands not belonging to the Crown in the North-western Province which were required for the purposes of the Railway. The total extent of the lands assessed for such purpose in the District of Seven Corles contained 83 acres 1 rood and 25 perches, comprising 21 parcels gardens, 95 parcels paddy land, 9 parcels grass land, and 34 parcels chena land, claimed as private property, and the compensation awarded in respect of their alienation amounted to 522*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*

Legislation.

22. The Kandyan Marriage Ordinance (No. 13. of 1859), which, from the 1st January 1861, was brought into operation in that portion of the North-western Province which was formerly part of the kingdom of Kandy, has not, I regret to say, been attended in the District of Seven Corles with the full measure of success which would appear to have followed its introduction in the Central Province. I refer not to the suppression of polygamy and polyandry (the expediency of reforming which abuses appear to be generally admitted), but to the almost total disregard of the provisions of the Ordinance which declare by what means and forms the validity of marriage between Kandyans shall henceforth be held to be established. Notwithstanding that on its coming into operation in the District of Seven Corles the substance of the Ordinance was widely published by Proclamation, and that its benefits have since been fully explained to the leading headmen, and the disabilities incurred by its avoidance are now generally known, such is the indifference of the native mind in regard to measures the benefits of which are prospective, and the penalties for not conforming to which are of posthumous effect, as being calculated to overtake future generations rather than the present one, that during the year 1863 there were registered throughout the 44 corles into which the district is divided not more than 48 marriages in all, and the consequence has been that several Registrars have thrown up their office, giving as their motive for resigning it that it afforded them no employment whatever.

23. I am of opinion, however, that to whatever causes may be ascribed the inclination which the Kandyan inhabitants of the district have heretofore evinced to abstain from registering their marriages, such abstention is not calculated to be prolonged. Already I perceive a change in this respect, denoting that, ere long, a more general appreciation of the benefits of the measure will prevail. Three of the Registrars who had resigned their office on the grounds stated have during the course of the present year (1864) petitioned to be reinstated in them; and I believe that the rule which I have for several months observed, of calling upon married candidates for native offices to produce proofs of the registrations of their marriage, will tend in a certain degree to propagate among the Kandyan classes a more general notion than appears hitherto to have been entertained by them of the importance attached by Government to the progress of a measure the moral and social issues of which are so intimately blended with the advance and growth of civilization among that class of the community.

Education.

24. The following statement of the number of Government schools in this province, and of the number of pupils attending the same, during the years 1862 and 1863, show an increase in the number of pupils of both sexes attending school in the latter year, of 378.

	1862.			1863.		
	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.	Expenditure by Government.	No. Schools.	No. of Pupils.	Expenditure by Government.
			£ s. d.			£ s. d.
KURNEGALLE.						
Boys' Schools - - -	1	495		1	496	
Girls' Schools - - -	—	—		1	185	
PUTLAM.						
Boys' Schools - - -	5	834		3	1,026	
Girls' Schools - - -	—	—		—	—	
Total - -	6	1,329	352 4 1	5	1,707	343 11 9

25. In January 1863 I represented to Government that the head teacher of the English school at Kurnegalle had received intimation of his removal from Kurnegalle to Kandy, and been directed to hand over charge of the school to the second teacher, and that thereupon the leading residents of the town had addressed a memorial to me, setting forth their apprehensions, from the silence of the Central School Commission in respect of appointing a successor to the head teacher, that it was not the intention of the Commission to fill the vacancy thus created, but to reduce the school from its existing to a secondary rank.

26. As reported by me on that occasion, the English school was then in an efficient state, and had been favourably noticed in the Sub-Inspector's last Report to the Commission. Mr. Anwardt, the head teacher, who was subsequently promoted to Kandy, possessed the confidence of the parents of the pupils; and it was clear that his removal, without any provision being made to fill his place, was calculated to prove detrimental to the interests of the pupils under his charge. Mr. Sendall, the Inspector of Schools, took the same view of the case, and in his letter to the School Commission of the 28th March 1863 represented that the second teacher, who had been left in charge of the English school at Kurnegalle, "was quite unequal to the task of maintaining it in its former state of efficiency." Of this the Inspector said he had satisfied himself by the clearest possible evidence, and having but recently visited Kurnegalle he felt bound to report entirely in favour of the speedy appointment of a competent successor to the head teacher who had been removed to Kandy. In submitting his views on this subject to the Central School Commission, Mr. Sendall observed,— "The claims of this district to be provided with a superior school were forcibly urged five years "ago by the late Inspector. The arguments then used apply with increased weight to the present "state of the locality, which has been steadily advancing in prosperity and importance. I convinced "myself by personal inquiry that the inhabitants are ready and willing to do all that can be required "of them in support of a good English school, and that the present state of things is a source "of serious inconvenience to many of them, and of great dissatisfaction to all."

27. It is to be regretted that neither my own representations nor those of the Inspector of Schools had the desired effect upon the School Commission. The entire year was suffered to pass away without a head teacher being appointed; the vacancy is not even yet filled; and the consequences are exactly as were foreseen by the Inspector of Schools and myself.

28. A girls' school was established at Kurnegalle during 1863, of the working of which I am not yet able to say anything decisive. The schoolmistress appointed by the Commission opened the school during the second quarter of the year, but, owing to no provision having been made in the Supply Bill for building a schoolroom., and to the difficulty of finding suitable private premises in the town for the purpose, both she and her pupils suffered much inconvenience. The building of a schoolhouse has, however, since been sanctioned, and is now (1864) in course of construction.

Public Health.

29. Reporting, in my letter of the 11th October 1861, on the circumstances of the District of Seven Corles, which appeared to me opposed to the renewal, at the end of that year, of the commutation of the grain tax, I had to state on what grounds I considered it impracticable to submit anything like a reliable estimate of the probable extent of land which might be brought under cultivation at the expiration of the yet existing settlement. The uncertainty I referred to was founded on the almost unprecedented ravages of endemical and contagious disease among the native population, during the preceding year, in attempting to describe which I had to draw the following gloomy picture of the public health of the district.

"The principal reasons for this difficulty arise out of the series of calamities which overtook the "Seven Corles during the past year (1860) and the beginning of the present one (1861). These have "already been laid before Government, and for the purposes of this Report, therefore, need only be "briefly enumerated as follows: 1st, the drought which set in early in 1860, and continued until "the end of September, causing not only the total failure of the yalla harvest, but the destruction "of nearly every other description of cultivation; 2ndly, the sickness which manifested itself in "various points of the district towards the middle of the same year, and which, propagated by "contagion, or diffused by other causes, at last spread over the entire length and breadth of the "province, proving itself every where frightfully destructive of human life; 3rdly, the murrain

CEYLON.

"which during the same period prevailed throughout the principal korles of the district, and "carried off, according to the headmen's returns, between 10,000 and 12,000 head of cattle; and "4thly, the scarcity, not to say famine, which followed in the wake of these evils, and which, through "the desertion of their homes by the inhabitants, or the starvation of those that remained, caused "entire villages to be depopulated.

"It was not to be expected that the year which followed so disastrous an epoch would be a "plentiful one; or that the difficulties and general distress which prevailed throughout the district "would subside with the causes which had produced them, even were these to abate. Unfortunately, "though reduced in intensity, the same evils have continued active throughout the present year "(1861) in almost every part of the district; the partial failure of the first and almost complete "destruction of the second harvest; the high rate of mortality among the inhabitants; the re-"appearance and increase of murrain; the scarcity of food in the Wanny and more remote corles; "the general dispersion of the inhabitants of those places in consequence; the unseasonableness of "the weather, and the gloomy prospects in respect of the next maha harvest; are, I regret to say, "the main features of the present year, so far as it has gone."

30. When such had been the condition of the public health during the immediately preceding years 1860, 1861, and part of 1862, it is satisfactory to be able to report that, contrasted with those years, the following one (1863) was not, comparatively, a very unhealthy year; for although sickness prevailed to a considerable extent, it proved generally of a mild and manageable form, and the year was not characterised by any epidemic fever or other contagious disease, akin to those which had spread during the previous years so extensively and fatally over the district, and caused such universal desolation. Small-pox, it is true, broke out and prevailed more or less during the year, but in a scattered form, and was not, fortunately, attended by any great fatality. The cases, as they occurred, were not removed to hospital from any distance, but they were isolated, and treated on the spot where they appeared. In a few cases, attendants were supplied and burials effected, at the public expense. A police constable was procured from Colombo for the special purpose of watching infected houses in the town, and carrying out the orders of the Board of Health, to enforce the isolation of cases, and prevent promiscuous intercourse between the sick and the healthy. But for these precautionary means, adopted at the suggestion of the Assistant Colonial surgeon of the Station, who personally saw that they were strictly observed and upheld, it is believed that the disease might have spread, and made serious progress throughout the district. There were, in all, 94 cases of small-pox during the year, out of which—

25	occurred	in the town;
7	„	on coffee estates;
52	„	in the interior of the district;
10	„	in hospital.

Of this number, 64 were discharged and 19 died; leaving 11 cases under treatment at the close of the year.

31. Measles prevailed to a limited extent in some portions of the districts, in the month of April, and whooping-cough and catarrhal affections in May.

32. Altogether, there were 249 cases of disease treated in the Government Civil Hospital at Kurnegalle, during the year, of which 186 were discharged and 51 died, leaving 12 under treatment on the 31st December.

33. In the gaol there were 132 cases under treatment during the same period, of which 129 were discharged, and three remained under treatment at the close of the year.

Coffee Estates and Cocoa-nut and Tobacco Plantations.

34. Of the 28 or 30 coffee estates which have been opened in the District of Seven Corles (mostly in Weodderville Hatpattoo) some are in their infancy, some are completely planted, and the others in various stages of progress. I regret that for the year 1863 I cannot supply reliable information of the acreage under cultivation on the estates, or of the yield of "plantation" coffee; but as regards the native crop, it is estimated by the headmen to have amounted to 86,285 bushels. On the whole, the impression is that the yield of coffee in 1863, both plantation and native, was considerably below "a fair average crop."

35. In Putlam, the cultivation of cocoa-nuts have largely increased, and the produce of the year is estimated at 35,000*l.* The cultivation of tobacco has also acquired considerable extension in the maritime districts of the Province, the crop of 1863 having been valued at 5,000*l.*

General.

In bringing this Report to a conclusion, I can only regret that it should consist, as it does, of a mere summary of the proceedings of the year in connexion with the revenue of the Province, and of such brief statistical details as will suffice to give a general idea of its relative position, compared with the other Provinces of the Island. I have refrained from making any general suggestions, for when these appeared necessary during the course of the year they were laid before Government from time to time as the circumstances which prompted them arose. I believe, moreover, that in the stage of transition in which the District of Kurnegalle may be considered at present to be, any project or scheme which would involve alterations or modifications of general application to the district would be premature. It is obvious that when the railway from Colombo to Kaigalle, through Seven Corles, shall have entered upon its destined work (and it is believed that the portion of the line between these two stations will be completed and open to traffic before the expiration of the first

six months of 1865), great changes may, with reason, be expected to follow its introduction into the district. Of what nature, precisely, these changes will be, it would be bold at present to attempt to specify; but in general terms it may be presumed that the inexpediency of maintaining certain lines of road, the necessity for opening new ones, and joining distant lines of communication; the establishing of fresh tolls; the improvement of the police in the town, and the establishing at out-stations of the same force along the principal highways; the providing for an additional minor court; the appointing of a land surveyor for permanent employment in the district; the building of a new civil hospital, or the enlarging of the present one, and the extension to Kurnegalle of telegraphic communication, by means of a branch line from Ambepusse, will constitute the main features of any general plan of improvement which may be submitted to Government consequent upon the opening of the line of railway from Colombo to Kandy through the District of Seven Corles.

(Signed) H. O'GRADY,
Government Agent.

No. 149.

SIR, Jaffna Cutcherry, May 12, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my Annual Report for the year 1863.

I have, &c.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary. (Signed) P. A. DYKE, Agent.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1863.

Revenue.

The total revenue, exclusive of that from the pearl fishery, in each year of the six years ending with 1857, and that of the six years ending with 1863, was as follows:—

1852	32,987	1858	41,080
1853	33,296	1859	44,383
1854	32,180	1860	45,393
1855	39,714	1861	46,947
1856	35,612	1862	47,580
1857	37,101	1863	51,895

The actual sum of the receipt brought to account in 1863 was 56,323*l.*, but 2,420*l.*, being the passage money of the immigrant coolies to and from the Island for 1862 and 1863, and brought to account in 1863, and 2,008*l.* the difference between the gross and the net receipt from the arrack monopoly, have been excluded from the above, in order to make the comparison of the results of that year with those of former years fair.

The average of the former period of six years is	£ 35,148
That of the latter like period	46,213
The increase in the latter	£ 11,065

The increase is equal to about 31½ per cent.

For the like reasons as assigned by me last year, namely, to show what is the real total taxation, and to confine comparison of the receipts in the different years to those receipts which are dependent on the condition of the Province, I add a table including the receipts from the Thoroughfares Ordinance, and excluding those for salt, for export to other parts of the Island, and beyond sea.

	Revenue exclusive of Salt for Export.	Receipts under the Thoroughfares Ordinance.	Total.
1858	38,875	4,250	43,125
1859	44,005	* 6,744	50,749
1860	42,723	6,900	49,623
1861	44,605	7,070	51,675
1862	47,404	7,359	54,763
1863	50,697	7,377	58,074

* Rates of Commutation raised.

The receipts for 1863, other than under the Thoroughfares Ordinance, are thus shown to have exceeded the like receipts for 1858 by 11,822*l.*, which increase is equal to about 30½ per cent., and including those from the Thoroughfares Ordinance the receipts for 1863 exceeded those for 1858 by 14,949*l.*, which increase is equal to about 34½ per cent.

CEYLON.

The following is a condensed abstract of the particulars of the receipts in the years 1858, 1862, and 1863.

	1858.	1862.	1863.
Grain	15,165	16,752	18,808
Customs	9,569	11,360	14,326
Thoroughfares Ordinance	4,250	7,359	7,377
Salt Monopoly	4,703	5,932	* 5,276
Arrack	2,596	4,951	4,559
Stamps	2,929	3,062	3,443
Tolls	723	1,078	929
Timber	721	725	755
Judicial Receipts	735	639	423
Carriers	297	432	417
Crown Lands	—	912	132
Postage	305	424	506
Chanks, Live	321	417	88
Do. Dead			486
All other Items except Passage Money of Immigrant Coolies	811	720	549
Total	43,125	54,763	58,074

* See further Letter and Enclosure from the Government Agent appended to this Report.

It occurs to me to give, what I did not give last year, a statement of the receipts, including those from the Thoroughfares Ordinance, and with the adjustments in the preceding statement for each district.

1863.

Including the receipts from the Pearl Fishery, 51,018*l.*, credited to the district of Manaar.

Jaffna	43,875
Manaar	58,605
Mulletivoe	2,308
Anoradhapoora	4,308
	£ 109,082

N.B.—Total of preceding statement	58,074
Pearl Fishery	51,018
	£ 109,082

Excluding the receipts from the Pearl Fishery:—

Jaffna	43,875
Manaar	7,587
Mulletivo	2,308
Anoradhapoora	4,304
	£ 58,074

The Pearl Fishery receipts have hitherto been brought into the accounts of Jaffna; but that was originally arranged merely from considerations of departmental convenience. If they are to be credited to the province, clearly they ought to be credited to the district of Manaar, and in favour of a conclusion that they should be credited to the Province this argument is suggested by the consideration elsewhere, of the case of the receipts from salt sold at Putlam for removal into other provinces, credited in the accounts of the North-western Province, namely, that if there were no pearl oysters there would not be any Pearl Fishery, whereas were no salt produced at Putlam the effect on the revenue would not be appreciable, as it could be imported and sold at a like net profit as it is now.

I proceed to make some remarks upon some of the heads of revenue.

Grain.

Last year I stated that the increase on grain was mainly attributable to a rise in prices. The increase in 1863 was attributable to a further increase of price.

In preparing this Report I detect an error in the statement given last year of the grain revenue of each district, the revenue of the whole province having been copied in as that of Jaffna; the error however was palpable, as the sums put down for Jaffna appeared immediately above as the revenue of the province, and this clerical error in no wise affects the correctness of the statements made as to the revenue of the province, the statement in which the error occurred being merely an explanatory statement.

The following is a correct statement from 1858.

—	Jaffna.	Manaar.	Mullo.	Anorad.	Total.
1858	10,491	2,404	610	1,660	15,165
1859	12,336	3,006	745	1,913	18,000
1860	10,598	1,817	667	1,653	14.735
1861	11,935	1,968	819	2,051	16,773
1862	12,291	2,206	779	1,476	16,752
1863	13,203	2,399	721	2,485	18,808

GRAIN PRODUCE AND IMPORTS.

—	Produce.	Import.	Total.
	The Jaffna District.		
1858	1,234,495	450,120	1,684,615
1859	1,294,369	605,857	1,900,226
1860	1,233,232	551,016	1,784,248
1861	1,239,460	603,681	1,843,141
1862	1,230,157	621,650	1,851,807
1863	1,155,784	805,703	2,061.487
	The Manaar District.		
1858	225,157	16,400	241,557
1859	330,193	14,632	344,825
1860	233,689	19,550	253,239
1861	250,216	21,914	272,130
1862	255,489	33,572	289,061
1863	250,540	37,824	288,364
	The Vanny District.		
1858	79,081	—	79,081
1859	89,392	—	89,392
1860	83,707	—	83,707
1861	102,885	—	102,887
1862	92,326	—	92,326
1863	74,500	—	74,500
	Total for the Province.		
1858	1,538,733	468,520	2,007,253
1859	1,713,954	625,782	2,339,736
1860	1,550,628	570,958	2,121,586
1861	1,592,561	628,255	2,220,816
1862	1,557,972	664,072	2,242,044
1863	1,480,824	849,780	2,330,604

In these statements all descriptions of dry grain are included, and each bushel of rice is reckoned as two of paddy. As in last year, however, the statement does not include Newerakalavia, as I am still unable to obtain any such information from that district; this defect in the statement is very much to be regretted.

The particulars of the grain (paddy and dry grain) in the Jaffna District were as follow:—

—	Paddy.	Dry Grain.	Total.
1858	878,727	355,768	1,234,495
1859	857,447	436,922	1,294,369
1860	881,522	335,710	1,233,232
1861	912,343	327,117	1,239,460
1862	884,965	345,192	1,230,157
1863	816,440	339,344	1,155,784

The import of rice only during this period was as follows:—

1858	28,172
1859	26,866
1860	31,816
1861	43,960
1862	62,000
1863	77,467

It was argued in the Report of last year that an increase in the proportion in the form of rice of the total import of grain was a proof of improvement in the condition of the people.

CEYLON.

Customs.

The increase, 4,667*l.* as compared with 1858, and 2,966*l.* as compared with 1862, will be referred to more particularly under the head of trade.

Salt Monopoly.

The revenue in each district from sales, other than for export from the province, was as follows:—

—	Jaffna.	Manaar.	The Vanny.	Total.
1858 - - -	3,345	824	322	4,491
1859 - -	3,593	1,227	407	5,227
1860 - - -	4,041	944	428	5,413
1861 -	4,086	933	317	5,335
1862 - - -	4,547	1,019	328	5,894
1863 - -	4,597	1.097	402	6,096

Last year I remarked that it was necessary, in order to truthful comparisons, from which alone any safe or useful conclusions could be drawn, that certain adjustments of this amount should be made, and so now the receipts for salt exported from the province have been deducted.

On the other hand, there are certain receipts for salt not brought into the accounts of this province which really are derived from it.

In relation to subjects requiring precision, I am accustomed to consider an "account" and a "statement" as two different things.

A professed account must be in the form in which the accounts of the Island are kept, but "statements," for such purposes as reports, such as this is intended to serve, should, as I consider be prepared with adjustments of the "accounts" on an intelligent consideration of facts.

Surely it cannot be said that the Central Province does not contribute any thing to the revenue derived from the salt monopoly, yet there is not any thing brought into the accounts under that head.

Actually it does contribute to the extent of the profit on the monopoly rate of sale, over and above the cost of price of all the salt consumed within it. And to call the profit on the sale at Putlam of such salt, and on the sale of the Western Province, revenue derived from the North-western Province is, with reference to the objects of such reports as this, a grave mistake.

So in considering what the people of Newerakalavia do really contribute to the revenue, and what is the proportion between the cost of its establishments, &c. and its revenue, it is, as shown by the accounts kept of the salt brought into it from Putlam, Trincomalie, and Mulletivoe entitled to credit, on an average for the three years ending with 1862, for 737*l.* per annum, and the revenue derived from the province was really by 717*l.* more than the "accounts" show, the difference between 717*l.* and 737*l.* being the value of salt purchased at Mulletivoe within the province.

Arrack.

A special adjustment has also been required as to this item, and has been made with reference to the fact of the management of the monopoly sale in the Jaffna and Vanny District being in the hands of Government (in aumanie); the effect of which on the accounts was to add a considerable sum to the expenditure as the cost of arrack, and to make the entry under receipts the gross proceeds of the sale including cost of arrack, instead of the net proceeds, as are the receipts for a rent. What is shown in this statement is the net receipt.

Tolls.

Of the total amount of 929*l.*, 389*l.* was for ferries and 540*l.* for roads, which latter was entirely in the peninsula of Jaffna, there being nowhere else in the peninusula finished roads such as it is justifiable to place a toll on. I regard the system of tolls on these roads as very inappropriate, and as having a pernicious effect in checking the use of carts, and their consequent increase, the inappropriateness having reference to the short distances over which in many cases articles and persons are transported, and to the very trifling value of many of the articles; two circumstances which make the tolls rateably heavy, and cause them to check the use of carts for transport for the daily purposes of the country people and for travelling.

A tax on all carts whatever, let to hire or not, would in my opinion be a better system; and should that system be adopted, as has been proposed, for all the Island, a special additional rate for the licences for Jaffna would be preferable to the existing tolls. It is to be observed too that from the amount of the rents being so small the per-centage of the cost of management, that is, the proportion of the tax paid which does not come into the public treasury, must be very large, which is generally admitted to be a strong objection to a tax.

The usual objection to any deviation from uniformity is sufficiently met by consideration of the peculiar features and circumstances of the particular part of the country referred to.

Timber.

In the Report furnished by me, as called for in October last, I recommended the raising of the rate of the royalty to be demanded for granting licences from one tenth to one fifth, and I have lately asked attention to this recommendation. I may here observe that a small forest of the true

iron wood was discovered by Mr. Moir in 1862, about 10 miles to the south east of Mulletivoe,and that while on circuit in September and October I ascertained that the tree existed in some quantities in the north-east part of Newerakalavia.

Indeed it gives the name to a rocky ridge, the "Na Heene," which the newly opened road from Vavonia Velancolom towards Trincomalie crosses. It was not before known that the tree was found in the Province.

Judicial Receipts.

The decrease is, I believe, owing to greater moderation in the imposition of fines. By persons on whom fines of 5*l.* were very commonly imposed the imposition was felt as much as a fine of 100*l.* would be by a person in England. It is only the very general possession of very small bits of land just big enough to live on, according to the requirements of the people, that admit of many of these fines being paid, by mortgage or sale, voluntarily or in execution.

Carriers.

I have anticipated part of what I had to notice under this head by my reference to it under the head of tolls.

The difficulty in enforcing the registration of carts, which has been several times pressed on the attention of Government, arising out of the fact that the time fixed for the new licences to be taken, is a time when a large number of the carts are out of the district to which they belong, or out of the Province, still continues. In fact this change made by the Ordinance No. 14. of 1861 totally disorganised all the pre-existing arrangements for systematic attention to this matter, and though I have taken much trouble about it I have not been able to organize any effective system to meet the existing facts.

The number of carts registered in the last year, 1861, when the period of registration was from January to December, and the numbers registered in each of the subsequent periods of 12 months, from July to June, has been as follows:

From January to December 1861 - -	1,142
From July 1862 to June 1863 - -	918
From July 1863 to April 1864 - -	1,048

Crown Lands.

In my Report for 1862 I stated, "In this year the prospect as to sales was at first very promising, "the lands put up selling readily, and at high prices; subsequently there was a check to the sales, "and lands put up were not bid for; the cause of this is not yet properly ascertained.

"The matter is still in a state of uncertainty. The people apparently cannot make up their "minds to part with money for what they indulge the hope that they may at some time, when "attention to the matter may have been relaxed, be able to get possession of by encroachment. I "believe, however, that some more lands will be sold shortly, particularly if the tobacco trade "continue in a favourable state."

Postage.

The following will show the effect on the revenue of the measure of the introduction of postage stamps.

Highest revenue under the old system, viz., in 1855 - -	£430
Amount in last year of that system, viz. 1856 - - -	396

	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
By money payments -	283	114	120	101	119	111	112
By stamps - -	79	189	245	285	273	313	394
	362	303	365	386	392	424	506

Dead Chanks.

Mr. Charles Scott in his Report as collector on the District of Jaffna in 1824, stated that the deposits of these shells in the Lake of Jaffna were first discovered in 1821.

The privilege of collecting them was for some time thereafter included with the rent of the exclusive privilege of obtaining the live chanks from the sea.

From 1841, however, after having been made the subject of full explanatory reports to Government, the collection, regulated by licences, has been open to all, on payment of an established rate of royalty.

I have thought that the following account of the numbers, valuations, and revenue derived from this source might be of interest:—

	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.
1841 - -	1,190,060	2,286	228
1842 - -	2,501,435	4,701	470
1843 - -	932,200	1,357	135
1844 - -	765,400	1,127	112

CEYLON.

	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.
1845	1,988,550	2,306	232
1846	1,242,900	1,427	142
1847	1,504,000	1,713	171
1848	1,267,900	1,505	150
1849	591,800	668	66
1850	287,000	335	33
1851	2,359,700	1,889	189
1852	1,909,400	1,709	171
1853	1,969,900	2,094	209
1854	935,301	928	92
1855	569,050	559	55
1856	377,000	410	41
1857	1,403,800	1,497	149
1858	3,482,702	2,838	283
1859	3,335,201	2,772	277
1860	2,590,500	3,652	365
1861	3,470,701	5,454	545
1862	1,657,251	2,458	388
1863	1,864,301	2,426	485

Although the supply has lasted for such a time, it is obvious that it must at some time be exhausted, as the shells must at one time, when alive, have been at the bottom of the water, and have been since covered over with sand and mud, and as there are not any live shells in the water now. The shells were first discovered in some of the tidal flats of the lake, and were found in a stratum of blue mud about eight inches in thickness, and at a depth of about two feet from the surface. In these flats, circular holes were dug to a little below the blue mud stratum, and about five or six feet in diameter, and besides, as of course, obtaining all the shells within that excavation, the diggers also obtained all around it to a distance of about three feet by probing the soft mud.

The deposits in the tidal flats have, however, long been exhausted, and the shells are now obtained in almost all parts of the lake by people wading into it to all depths up to the neck, two instruments having been in process of time invented by them for their use, namely, an iron probe, with a cross handle and a hook like a boat-hook. With these they are enabled, without stooping, which the depth of water they sometimes go into would not admit of, first, to find the shells by probing or prodding with the rod, and then to draw them up by managing to get the hook into the open part or mouth of the shells.

These considerations, together with information acquired of the very large profits of the persons employed in procuring the shells, far above the ordinary wages of labour, led me to recommend that the royalty, which till June 1862 had been one tenth, should be raised to one fifth, which measure, regarding the deposits like an exhaustible mine, I consider that the figures shown has been attended with complete success.

In some reports on the revenues of Ceylon this source of revenue has been referred to as trumpery and unworthy of notice. I wish much that the money had been disposed of in a like spirit, by being handed over to the local authorities for local improvements. It would suffice, or nearly suffice, to build all the bridges still required for the Central Road, and is actually about equivalent to all the expenditure incurred for the Central Road in the Patchelapalle, the shore of which the lake washes, or to all the expenditure on new roads and bridges in the peninsula of Jaffna for the last fourteen years.

Trade.

I give, as for last year, a statement of the total value of this, for the last six years:—

1858	276,464
1859	340,748
1860	338,803
1861	318,905
1862	319,680
1863	417,885

The totals and averages for three periods of six years each were as follows:—

	Totals.	Average.
1846 to 1851	1,080,110	180,018
1852 to 1857	1,285,405	214,234
1858 to 1863	2,012,491	335,415

The increase in the six years ending with 1862 over the previous period of six years was equal to 43 per cent.

The increase now shown in the six years ending with 1863 over the previous period of six years is equal to 56 per cent.

Under the head of "grain produce and import" I referred to the intention of noticing here the considerable increase in the import of grain. It was principally in the Jaffna district. The statements referred to show a decrease in the local produce of about 75,000 bushels, but the increase of imports was equal to 184,000 bushels. The value of this, in round numbers, was about 30,000*l.* It was, probably, the large receipts for their tobacco that enabled the people to meet this outlay; and

this affords a strong illustration of the value of that trade to the people, and of how directly its prosperity tells upon the prosperity of the revenue.

I made some mention last year, as peculiar to the province, of the export of elephants. I repeat the figures for 1862, and give those for 1863, viz. :—

—	Number.	Value.	Average Value of each.
			£ s. d.
1862 - -	326	3,150	9 13 0
1863 - - -	173	2,869	16 11 8

When travelling, in September, two elephants, recently caught, were brought into a village in which I was, to the eastward of the Central Road, and meeting the elephant catchers again at a later period of my tour, in their own village near Arippoo, they told me that the large one had been sold for 36*l.* and the smaller one for 20*l.* Formerly great numbers died while being removed from the forests to the sea coast, but now the traders frequently take them over from the catchers in the forests in which they have been caught, and very much fewer are said to die.

In connexion with this mention of elephants got rid of by export, I am led to notice the number of chetahs and bears, for the destruction of which rewards were paid, namely :—

—		Chetahs.	Bears.
From 1854 to 1863	Jaffna - -	138	244
	Manaar - -	7	110
	The Vanny - -	138	334
	Newerakalavia -	190	321
		473	1,009

This large destruction of these wild beasts must have had a sensible effect on the existing numbers of them.

Public Health.

It is to be feared that the province, from its great intercourse with the adjoining continent, where those epidemics are almost always prevalent, will never be entirely free for any lengthened periods from smallpox and cholera.

There were not, however, any cases of cholera during the year.

Of smallpox there were 112 cases and 19 deaths.

The number of persons vaccinated in the Jaffna district was 10,651.

The numbers vaccinated in each year from 1838 were as follows :—

1838 - - -	8,779	1851 - - -	8,634
1839 - - -	9,062	1852 - - -	10,461
1840 - - -	6,405	1853 - - -	9,390
1841 - - -	5,724	1854 - - -	11,404
1842 - - -	4,445	1855 - - -	12,161
1843 - - -	4,603	1856 - - -	11,521
1844 - - -	4,783	1857 - - -	10,993
1845 - - -	3,880	1858 - - -	6,889
1846 - - -	4,725	1859 - - -	6,669
1847 - - -	8,000	1860 - - -	4,343
1848 - - -	7,634	1861 - - -	6,049
1849 - - -	6,997	1862 - - -	6,750
1850 - - -	6,898		

Health of Cattle.

As shown in the quarterly reports, there was disease in some part or other of the district of Jaffna throughout the year.

In the Manaar and Vanny districts disease prevailed only in the first quarter.

The total deaths reported during the year were,—

—	Cattle.	Sheep.
Jaffna - - -	10,239	7,089
Manaar - -	676	—
The Vanny - -	445	—
	11,360	7,089

CEYLON.

Crime.

Following the general plan of this report, to re-state facts for a certain number of previous years, in order to facilitate comparison with them of the facts for the particular year reported on, I repeat the statement given last year as to serious crimes, making it, inclusive of 1863,—

	Number of serious Cases.	Number of Persons tried in those Cases.
12 years ending 1831 - -	260	886
12 „ „ 1843 - -	225	649
12 „ „ 1855 - -	100	309
8 „ „ 1863 - -	81	181

I add to this a statement I was induced to have prepared from observation of what was exhibited in the register of all prisoners admitted into gaol, which is kept so as to show separately those from each court.

Memorandum of the number of convicted prisoners committed to the gaol of Jaffna in each year from 1860 to 1863, from each police court, exclusive of persons committed in default of payment of penalties imposed under the Thoroughfares Ordinance:—

	Jaffna.	Mallagam.	Sava-gaserry.	Point Pedro.	Kayts.	Total.
1860 - -	87	3	49	51	8	198
1861 - -	57	70	48	49	8	232
1862 - -	76	86	42	42	15	261
1863 - -	78	148	29	8	6	269

N.B.:—

	Jaffna and Mallagam.	Savagaserry, Point Pedro, and Kayts.	Total.
1860 - -	90	108	198
1861 - -	127	105	232
1862 - -	162	99	261
1863 - -	226	43	269

The leaving of stations without a magistrate is a great and seems to be a growing evil. Point Pedro was without a magistrate for four and Sevagaserry for two and a half months, during which time the magistrate of Jaffna, having concurrent jurisdiction, the business of the two districts was thrown upon him.

In the report of 1862 I made the following observations:—

"The peace of the country is now more disturbed by class and caste disputes than by anything "else. * * * It is, however, my opinion that in the meantime acts of oppression on the part of "influential persons towards those who formerly occupied a degraded position, from which they are "now struggling to emerge, ought to be punished with severity."

In May I reported that three several cases of the kind had come under my notice, and I suggested that the Queen's Advocate's attention should be called to one of them in particular, and to offences of the kind generally. This was done. Circulars were written to the magistrates by the Deputy Queen's Advocate, at the instance of the Queen's Advocate; and, as to the particular case, the Queen's Advocate reported to Government as follows: "I have looked into the case referred to by "the agent, and quite concur with him in opinion that the accused parties were treated with too "great leniency. Their conduct was very lawless, and called for severe punishment, and yet the "magistrate only bound them over in the sum of 10*l.* on their own personal recognizances. True it "is that the complainants were willing to settle the case amicably; but the very reason assigned by "them, that they 'were weak,' and the accused 'powerful,' should have induced the magistrate to "press on the case, and to punish the accused severely."

Since that, several other cases of a like nature have occurred, and in one that occurred in July, in which a petty headman of a fishing port (a pattangatty) was concerned, he and eight others have been convicted before the court at Savagaserry, the conviction being sustained in appeal, and sentenced the pattangatty to a fine of 5*l.* and three months imprisonment at hard labour, and the other eight to a like imprisonment, and a fine of 1*l.* each.

In my report of 1847, called for by Government, on the agent's duties, I observed on the use that might be made by the Government agent of the returns of cases which are furnished by

the magistrates to Government, from the information that they would be calculated to afford him of the prevailing offences and causes of suits in each part of the country; and in my report of 1862 I remarked that I never saw any such returns. I submit that it is anomalous that the agent of the Government in a province should be without information of this nature.

Circuit Courts.

On a renewed earnest appeal made by me to Government in June, in which I showed the deplorable condition of the parts of the district most remote from the station, and how much the withdrawal of the provision had aggravated the sufferings of the people, the Government was pleased to re-establish the system of the Circuit Courts of Manaar, for the remoter parts of the district, called the Vanny Pattoos, which having been first established in 1858 was suspended in 1861.

Agents' and Assistant Agents' Circuits.

The fact of my having been absent from the province in 1861, and the extent to which my plans for this for 1862 had been disturbed, as noticed in my report for that year, together with other special causes particularly demanding it, made me anxious that my arrangements for this for the year should be comprehensive.

Besides travelling somewhat more than usual in the agent's peculiar district of Jaffna, I was for about three weeks at the station of Manaar, and in the district in May and June for special purposes, one of which was to give attention to matters connected with the cooly immigration, and in September and October I made a very complete circuit of the three districts of the Vanny Newerakalavia and Manaar, going in Newerakalavia in particular, to the extreme eastern, southern, and western boundaries, on the roads to Trincomalie, to Kandy, and to Putlam.

The assistant agents of Manaar and the Vanny made their usual circuits.

Of the proceedings of the assistant agent of Newerakalavia in this respect I have not a clear conception, and have not distinct information before me, inasmuch as Mr. Flanderka, during this year, greatly failed in his practice, before so exemplary, as to keeping his diary, and at this time I have not received the transcripts, which are usually forwarded to me, of any diary kept by him during the year.

As it appears to be so generally believed that travelling allowances yielded a net income to all public servants, I am induced to mention that I believe this cannot be the case as to any of the assistant agents of this province. The two facts, that they use a tent (the necessity for which the several public servants who in this province are called on to travel recognise), and that they travel by routes on which wheel carriages cannot be used, would prevent such a result.

For myself, excluding days when my remaining out was not strictly necessary for public purposes, and for which days no charge was made to the public, the charges of all kinds incident to travelling incurred by me during the year, including charges for the upkeep of tents, amounted to 382*l.*, and I received for travelling allowances 234*l.*

This statement is here made with exclusive reference to the question of travelling allowances being a source of profit, or rather of profit being derived frem the practice of travelling.

Public Works.

Systematic provision for these in this province commenced with 1834.

The amount annually expended from the general revenue from that time has been as follows:—

1834	595			1849	2,204	
1835	2,500			1850	3,014	Average of the
1836	2,971			1851	3,350	8 years,
1837	3,945			1852	2,877	2,829*l.*
1838	1,704	Average of the		1853	1,178	
1839	1,345	2* years,		1854	2,279	
1840	4,191	8,449*l.*		1855	4,147	
1841	4,293			1856	5,712	
1842	3,533			1857	7,420	
1843	3,083			1858	8,088	Average of the
1844	5,223			1859	10,689	9 years,
1845	7,914	Ditto		1860	7,529	7,202*l.*
1846	8,984	8,449*l.*		1861	7,513	
1847	4,624			1862	5,506	
1848	3,107			1863	8,215	

* Sic in orig.

Comparison of the annual averages of the different periods is very significant. For the eight years from 1847 to 1854 the amount was materially less than it was for the 10 years from 1835 to 1844.

And the amount for the last nine years is not equal to what it was for the two years 1845 and 1846.

The following is a statement of the votes from 1850 for works of general improvement, as for new roads, bridges, causeways, resthouses, maddams, wells, anchorages, and navigable channels, dams and drainage.

Works undertaken under the Road Ordinance, and public buildings are not included in the statement.

CEYLON.

As to the former, I must repeat a statement made before, that the people of the peninsula of Jaffna contribute rateably more than the people of any other part of the Island, inasmuch as the sum at which they commute the labour (and all commute) suffices to pay a labourer on the roads for five days, which is not the case in any other part of the Island. As to public buildings, I think it is much to be regretted that they should be included in the general statement of "public works." Public offices wherein to transact the public business belong as much to the category of "office contingencies" as stationery wherewith to transact it; and when the sum of the votes for buildings, and those for such works as roads, bridges, &c., are lumped together, a wrong impression is produced as to what is the real outlay on works which are calculated to directly advance the interests of the country.

Public writers very generally attribute to colonies a tendency to overbuild, especially in their capitals; and contemplation of some buildings in Colombo, with a knowledge of their costs, by persons accustomed to travel over bridgeless roads, cannot I think but give rise to a desire that as much prominency as possible should be at all times given to the question, whether it would not be desirable to postpone ornamental building so long as so many demands for outlay for practical purposes, as on roads and bridges, remain unsatisfied.

STATEMENT referred to of Votes for Works of General Improvement.

* * * * * *

General Abstract of the foregoing.

		Annual Average for 14 Years.
Central Road, Patchelapalle	*£5,410	
Bridges, Central Road	2,736	£195
Other new works on the main land	1,508	104
Works of construction of roads and bridges on the peninsula of Jaffna	5,357	382
Miscellaneous, new works on the peninsula	4,285	306
	£19,296	

Abstract by years.

1850	£768	1858	£2,865
1851	600	1859	2,965
1852	—	1860	2,779
1853	—	1861	2,400
1854	—	1862	1,534
1855	1,500	1863	604
1856	880		
1857	2,401		£19,296

Average 1,378.

In respect to new works opened during the time, there has been expenditure from the general revenues only upon three, and for only one has the whole expense been met from those revenues, namely:

In the peninsula of Jaffna.

	Expended from Road Ordinance Fund.	Expended from General Revenue.
Causeway and bridge at Kopay	£1,100	£1,090
Road between Puttoor and Kodigame	1,340	2,150
In the Vanny District.		
A cross road by which the tapal travels of 15 miles, opening and levelling through the forest	—	350

The amount of the item of the Supply Ordinance for 1864, "No. 14, roads, streets, bridges, and canals," deducting the amounts for balance, general service, implements, the factory, sick bullocks, elephants, and purchase of bullocks, is - - - - - 91,248

* * * * * *

* Mainly for the interests of the gentlemen engaged in cocoa-nut cultivation. But for the consideration for those interests the road would have been carried in a different direction, and would have been much less costly.

An abstract of this is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
For land for new open market-places, or for enlarging existing ones -	552	5	0
For enclosure walls and rails and roads around the said market-places -	358	15	0
For open-tiled public maddams within the said market-places - -	200	0	0
	£1111	0	0

I feel assured that the real character of these places is not generally understood. It is very significant that the members of the minority of the Legislative Council who were in favour of continuing the system of improvement of these places, the Governor, the Major-General, the Queen's Advocate, and the Auditor-General, had all been in the country where they are, and had seen them, and the manner in which the people resort to and use them, which is entirely different from what was assumed by those of the majority against the continuance of the system, who expressed their opinions on it.

In my report of last year I made these observations on the want of bridges to some of the most important roads on the mainland:—"Mr. Morris's reference to the Kala Oya leads me to notice how "much the realization of the objects aimed at in the opening of roads in the large block of forest "between the Elephant Pass and Dambool, 120 miles in length by, roughly, 50 in breadth, is "checked by the want of bridges. A river in the eastern boundary, the Yoanaar, interrupts com-"munication with Trincomalie, as the Kala Oya in the west does with Putlam; and on the Central "Road of 120 miles, five bridges are still required at five places, reckoning the delta of the "Kanagarayanaar, in the Karetchy as one."

I have again and again been led to expect that provision would be made for those on the Central Road, and I think there is no impropriety in my stating that I was consulted as to giving priority to those of Dambool and Nalande, to which I was consentient, as they are of more importance, from the nature of the country, to the people of this province, as far as regards their large trade by the Central Road with Matelle than those within the province; but now that both of those have, as I understood, been completed, or nearly so, I trust that the further work of the kind required northwards may be proceeded with

There exists a bridge near to Anoradhapoora on the road between that and Trincomalie, over the Malvatta Oya (the Aripoo river of the coast), which is much larger than any of those still required on the Central Road, which was built entirely with local resources, and which was not in any way injured by the floods of last year, which Mr. Morris described as the heaviest that had ever been known.

To realize the object of bridging the roads in the country referred to, a heavy outlay in any one year would not be needed. What is required is, that persistent and sustained attention to which Sir H. Ward alluded in his Minute of 1856, as having been the means of effecting much in the peninsula with comparatively small means.

The case is similar in the peninsula, where the heaviest works, in point of cost, and those most demanded, from the interruption to traffic, and the discomfort to the people which they would remove, are long causeways across inlets from the lake.

The principal work of the kind which has been executed is that at Kopay, which is 600 yards in length (including 100 yards of waterway in palmira-piled bridges), and is supported by solid stone walls.

This, as shown in the preceding statement, was constructed partly from votes from the general revenues and partly from receipts from the Road Ordinance, in equal proportion from each; and from the difficulty as to funds it took three years to complete it.

There are several other works of the kind much required, the execution of which would be of more practical advantage to the people than anything else of the kind that could be done for them.

These, however, could only be executed by steadily persistent and sustained attention to them for a series of years. They could scarcely be entered on without a clear recognition on the part of Government of the propriety of such a source of action. It has seemed to me, however, for some years past, that the Government has a great disinclination to engage in anything in this province that cannot be completed with one vote, and consequently in twelve months, or to give consideration to any statement of prospective views extending beyond a year.

Had such a feeling operated in former years the existing main roads of the peninsula could not have been made; but, so far from this having been the fact, although it was known that not more than 2,000*l.* or 3,000*l.* a year could be given for them, and although the works were estimated to cost 12,000*l.* or 15,000*l.*, they were entered on (with the sanction of the Secretary of State), and were steadily carried on without interruption, for a long series of years, to completion.

It occurs to me to add, that the principal roads in the peninsula are generally in better order than they ever were before, as the effect of the introduction of late years by Mr. Byrne, and the continuation of and the great extension by Mr. Folkard, of the system of metalling with broken stone (limestone). Previous to that, the gravel, or madrapore, as it came from the pit, had been found sufficient; but the increase in the number of carts, and still more in the weight of the loads usually carried, made the improvement in the mode of construction a matter of necessity.

I had thought to have made some detailed reference to the subject of minor roads, but consideration of the length to which this report under this head has been extended deters me from this. A great deal of very useful work has been done on the peninsula, and a great effect has been realized by the recent completion of several lines of road which had been in progress for several years.

CEYLON.

Cooly Immigration.

The service of the immigration vessels continued to be conducted with great efficiency throughout the year. I visited one of the vessels at Pasalle in June last, (the same vessel which has in this year been lost, under such sad circumstances as regards the loss of life). The vessel, when I visited her, had only been in port a few hours, having come in during the night with coolies, yet she was quite clean, and free from any bad smell between decks.

The number of coolies carried by these vessels in the year was as follows :—

	Men.	Women.	Children.
Arrivals - -	28,712	7,833	1,672
Departures - -	20,842	4,391	1,328
Total - -	49,554	12,224	3,000

In this year (and partly in 1862) there were sunk, and built up in a substantial manner in masonry, in the Manaar and Newerakalavia districts, 18 wells, at a cost of 455*l.*

It would be difficult to overrate the relief that these have afforded to the coolies. There is now water at all times at places at moderate distances apart.

Works of repair have been executed to a number of the cooly maddams, but several of them are still in very bad order.

I passed over the whole of the line of road travelled by the coolies in September and October.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The Fiscal's Office.

The efficient working of this office has been considerably improved since the appointment of a special deputy fiscal.

* * * * * *

Distressed Condition of Weavers.

I had noticed in the Indian newspapers that this class of people have throughout the country suffered great distress, and here also a great many have been thrown out of employ from the inability to obtain thread. They commonly work to a great extent with imported English thread; and I give hereunder a statement of these imports for several years, and also of the import of cloth, English and Indian, and of the export from Jaffna; that made here, and Indian cloth dyed and painted by hand here.

IMPORT of Cotton-thread into the Northern Province from beyond Sea.

	Quantity.	Value.		
	Cwts.	£	*s.*	*d.*
1859 - - - -	416 3 11½	2,936	1	6
1860 - - - -	410 1 26¼ *and bundles* 245	2,829	4	8
1861 - - - -	271 1 13 *and bundles* 2	1,603	9	11
1862 - - - -	118 1 0 *and packages* 6	1,065	4	4
1863 - - - -	50 0 27½	952	8	6

IMPORT of Cotton Cloth of all Kinds both from beyond Sea and Coastwise into the Province.

	Bales.	Packages.	Pieces.	Value.		
				£	*s.*	*d.*
1859 - - -	821	86	137,875	33,772	1	9
1860 - - - -	692	331	102,553	35,898	6	0
1861 - - -	452	343	60,382	27,971	11	8
1862 - - - -	237	432	30,997	17,482	5	4
1863 - - -	491	196	19,948	33,560	9	0

EXPORT of Cotton Cloth of Jaffna Manufacture, and dyed and painted at Jaffna.

	Bales.	Packages.	Pieces.	Value.		
				£	*s.*	*d.*
1859 - - -	- - -	272	- - -	2,942	16	0
1860 - - - -	- - -	561	569	3,691	17	6
1861 - - -	- - -	393	1,048	5,244	9	0
1862 - - - -	- - -	358	249	5,828	14	6
1863 - - -	- - -	228	- - -	3,483	12	0

Cyclone.

A gale of this description which came on the 19th October has been mentioned in the season report for the fourth quarter.

The account given there of the damage done by it in the Jaffna District was as follows:—

Vessels belonging to the province totally lost by foundering or being driven on shore - - - - -	11 Burthen 676 tons.
Value of vessels lost and injured - - -	£2,950
Value of goods and specie lost - - - -	2,832

The following is a list of the gales of this description within my knowledge, or of which there is record, which have occurred since 1814:—

1802, 1803, 1809 } As referred to in the report of that in 1814.

November	24	1814	March	26	1853
May	4	1827	December	30	1855
December	7	1829	November	20	1856
May	22	1836	May	4	1858
December	31	1844	April	20	1859
May	1	1851	October	19	1863

From the reports made at the time, and from the clear and incontestible evidence of the large tracts of land in the borders of the lake in the divisions of Poonenyn and Karetchy, which still show the effects of the extensive inundation from the lake, that of 1814 must have been the most severe of all.

That of May 1827 was also very severe, and lasted for an unusual time.

The first I witnessed at Jaffna was that of December 1829, and certainly it was more violent than any of those which have occurred since.

Published accounts of the height to which the cyclone wave rises in the upper part of the Bay of Bengal, and of the consequences that have ensued therefrom to some of the low lying districts on its shores, considered in connexion with the fact that the peninsula of Jaffna is generally not more, if so much as, 10 or 12 feet above the level of the sea, are calculated to suggest apprehensions of the possible effects of some future visitations of this kind.

I have not received any annual report from any of the assistant agents. Mr. Morris (acting assistant agent) furnished one for Newerakalavia last year, several extracts from which I embodied in my Report.

(Signed) P. A. DYKE,
Agent.

Jaffna Cutcherry, May 12, 1864.

SIR, Jaffna Cutcherry, June 14, 1864.

I HAVE the honor to request that the enclosed paper may be added to my report for 1863, opposite to the statement termed "a condensed abstract of the particulars of the receipts in the years 1858, 1862, and 1863," and that a note of reference to it may be inserted opposite to the figures "5,276*l.*, under the head of salt monopoly," 1863.

And I should feel much obliged by being favoured with intimation that this request has been complied with.

I find that in the course of making the various adjustments referred to in the report some discrepancies have arisen between the statements in different parts of it, which, in the hurry occasioned by the desire to get the report sent off, were overlooked.

Thus the real revenue accruing from salt, with the exceptions stated, is given in the note now sent as 6,112*l.*; whereas elsewhere it is stated as 6,096*l.*, the difference of 16*l.* being a sum recovered for some deficiencies. And the other instances of the kind are generally immaterial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. A. DYKE,
Agent.

The following is a copy of an explanatory remark made on the revenue statement for December 1863.

By an accident a sum of 836*l.* for the rent of Jaffna, instead of being brought to account on the 31st December, was so early in January. There was not any corresponding arrear at the end of 1862 in respect to the rent of that year. Therefore, for the purpose of instituting a real comparison

CEYLON.

between the revenues which accrued in respect to the two years, the 836*l.* must be credited to 1863, when the account will stand thus :—

Rented - -	£ 2,884	
	836	
		£ 3,720
Retail - -		1,482
Wholesale - -		910
		£ 6,112

which shows an increase of 180*l.* on the total for local consumption. The rent of Jaffna for 1862 had sold high, and there was no increase for 1863.

(Signed) P. A. DYKE,
Agent.

Government Agent's Office, Trincomalie,
14th April 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit report of the Batticaloa District for 1863, received from my assistant on the 6th instant, to which I beg to append a few remarks.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. MORRIS,
Government Agent.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1863.

The past year has been a prosperous one, both as regards the revenue and the circumstances of the people. The collections of the year have exceeded that of 1862 by 1,464*l.*, the aggregate being 13,873*l.* against 12,409*l.* The expenditure on establishments has been about 4,870*l.*, leaving a clear profit of some 9,000*l.* Under these circumstances I may be excused for urging upon notice those wants which I believe to be most felt by the residents here, and several of which I believe will be remunerative in the end, though at first the return may be but small. I will, however, follow my usual practice of remarking on the several heads of revenue.

Arrears of Revenue.

The arrears of revenue are composed of the last instalments of the arrack and toddy farms, and of a few payments due by the renters of the Government share of crops; the former was paid a few days after the close of the year, but the latter give no little trouble in their collection, as will appear when I state that I had to enter no fewer than 139 cases in the Court of Requests for sums due on this account. It will, however, be of less importance this year, as I have arranged with a member of the bar here to undertake such cases on my behalf as come before the minor courts in future, recovering costs only in those cases which he gains, where they have to be paid by the defendants ; but they one and all utterly decline to undertake to appear before the District Court unless their fees are secured to them, whether they gain or lose, as would be done by private individuals, or a regular salary paid. I am not aware how it is that the practice of allowing time for payments has crept in, but there is no doubt that it tends to increase the price of the tithe rents, by enabling purchasers to raise money on their crops wherewith to make payments, they being generally cultivators who have little or none at the date of sale, which is prior to the reaping and thrashing of crops.

Customs.

The revenue derived from the customs though very small, being only 585*l.*, shows an increase of 92*l.* as compared with that of last year. I trust to be able to show under the head "roads" how it may be very materially added to.

Land Sales.

More has been realized by land sales than I expected when I wrote my report for 1862, but there is a decrease of 240*l.* in comparison with that of the previous year. Our receipts have been as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Sales during the year in irrigation district - - -	210	10	0
Sales in other parts of the district - - - - -	949	0	0
Instalment on purchase of former years - - - -	1,561	0	0
Payments on account of lots given over at ½ valuation - - -	263	10	0
Total - -	2,984	0	0

I anticipate a considerable sale of small garden lots in villages ; and in these cases it is at all times difficult and in some instances impossible to make bidders understand what particular lot is being sold. Many of these gardens have been held and improved for periods varying from two or three years to nine or nearly ten, perhaps; it thus becomes very important that the holder should know the exact lot put up for sale. Villagers cannot at all understand plans. Thus it not unfrequently happens that another becomes the proprietor for far less than the holder would have given, the consequence being, that not only is the Government a loser, but much heart-burning is occasioned among the people. I have been informed, too, that some are sharp enough to undertake the journey to the cutcherry on the understanding that they are to purchase for their neighbours, and, the lot being knocked down, they refuse to make it over to the intended purchaser, but sell it again at a considerable profit on their own account. All this would be avoided were the sales like those of the Fiscal's Department, held on the spot. This would certainly occasion much additional trouble and

exposure to the officer who has to hold the sales; it would too, increase travelling expenses; but I respectfully submit that the benefit derivable by the people and the revenue would far counterbalance these disadvantages, and that were a Minute passed by the Governor authorizing or requiring that these sales should be held on the spot it would be a great boon to the people at large.

Paddy. The revenue derived from paddy was 3,553*l.*, against 3,371*l.* in the previous year, giving an increase of 182*l.*, of which 14*l.* 10*s.* is on account of additional commutation. The estimated extent of Crown land cultivated with paddy was 748 acres; the amount realized by the sale of the Government share was about 230*l.*, licensed cultivation being taxed at one fifth, unlicensed at one half. Owing to the want of food, which I mentioned in my report for 1862 had been widely felt in that year, a larger quantity of paddy was detained in the hands of the landowners and traders than, in consequence of the larger cultivation of chena, was needed; it has not, therefore, risen beyond 2*s.* the bushel. I fear that the result will be that this year a very large proportion will be sent out of the district, and, as there is to be no chena cultivation next year, that there will be a great scarcity.

Fine Grain. The chenas licensed in 1862 yielded last year a revenue of 578*l.*; those licensed in 1863 will give theirs in 1864, after which the revenue from this source will cease. I am sorry to have to observe, that the generality of chena cutters have included better land than was licensed in their clearings. They are, however, called upon to pay for timber that was growing on their clearings, so that Government will not really be losers by it; but it is vexatious to find such persistence in endeavours to over-reach.

Ferry Tolls. The ferry tolls yielded a slightly increased revenue, notwithstanding the establishment of courts at Calmone and Caroncotativoe saves most of the litigants and their witnesses from the southern pattoos from coming into Pulientivoe.

Arrack. The arrack rent sold for 1,475*l.* for the last six months of 1863 and first six of 1864. It has been gradually increasing since 1855, when it only realized 267*l.* 10*s.* The renter, however, will, I fear, suffer a considerable loss, not having enough arrack to carry him on until the port opens. There is one circumstance connected with this rent to which I am desirous of inviting attention, in the hope that what appears to me to be an omission may be remedied; it is, that no penalty is imposed either by the Ordinance No. 10. of 1844, or by the conditions of sale, for diluting the spirits or adulterating it. If it be necessary that the public should be guarded against such acts in the case of salt, surely it is as much so in this instance. I would also respectfully state that it is not advisable to continue the clause in the conditions of sale by which the Government is bound to issue arrack from the commissariat stores when the other resources of the renter fail. He being, or should be, fully aware of the average quantity annually consumed, should be careful to have such a supply as should ensure his not being without, or failing he should suffer the penalty of his want of precaution, and not have a shadow of claim for compensation for losses which due forethought on his own part might prevent.

Stamps. The new Stamp Ordinance, being more thoroughly understood, is working better, and we have in consequence sold no less than 1,288*l.* worth of stamps, against 990*l.* in 1862. A further considerable increase may be looked for in 1864, in consequence of the Registration Ordinance having come into force.

Post Office. The postage revenue has increased one seventh, and I observe that the natives frequently avail themselves of the privilege of registering letters and parcels. I would here invite attention to the pay of the clerk who has charge of this duty, which is less than that of many head servants, being only 1*l.* 10*s.* a month. It is quite out of the question that this sum can maintain a burgher who has to dress and live respectably; indeed a native would consider it insufficient.

The post office at Calmone is in charge of the clerk of the court there, and it appears there was some understanding that the tapal peon there should serve processes and attend to other duties connected with the court. This, of course, must interfere with his other duties; and, as he is paid entirely by the Post Office Department, I think the sooner it is discontinued the better, and that some allowance might be made to the salt storekeeper there, who is an officer under the orders of the assistant agent, who should be required to attend to these duties, instead of the court clerk, who draws his pay from another department, and is not subject to my control.

Salt. This valuable condiment seems to be ever in increasing demand here. Last year 2,476*l.* worth was sold, against 2,174*l.* in the previous year; and reference to the accounts of 1853 show that the sale then only produced 484*l.* 10*s.* Rather more than one third of the quantity sold is for the Central Province.

Weights and Measures. The sale of weights and measures here is very small, and many of those issued to this cutcherry do not agree with the standard. Any person, therefore, using them, would be liable to fine under the 5th clause of Ordinance No. 2 of 1836, while he might be innocent of all blame in the matter. The Acting Deputy Commissary General, in his letter No. 192. of the 8th July last to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, states that he presumed they were tested in England before shipment, and that he could not undertake to test them or in any way guarantee them. It is not for me to say who should or who should not test them, but as I am called upon to sell them, I think I am but doing my duty in asking that they should be properly tested before being sent for sale.

Road Ordinance. I do not recollect that the working of the Road Ordinance in this district has ever been reported upon. It appears to me that it is now carried out very satisfactorily. Scarcely any of the people here but have elected to commute, which is natural enough, since they do so at 4*d.* for each day's work; whereas the ordinary rate of hire varies from 4½*d.* to 6*d.*; it is thus plain that by commuting they are gainers. This law was first enforced here in 1850, when the collections under it amounted to 877*l.* This dwindled down in 1851 to 693*l.*, slightly increasing in 1852 to 707*l.*; in 1853 it rose to 822*l.*, in 1854 to 911*l.*, diminishing again in 1855 to 765*l.* For this the division officers were punished, as it was attributed to their carelessness. In 1856 the collection amounted to 1,157*l.*, in 1857 to 1,356*l.*,

CEYLON.

in 1858 to 1,313*l.*, in 1859 to 1,253*l.*, in 1860 to 1,313*l.*, 1861, 1,413*l.*, 1862, 1,586*l.*, and 1863, 1,578*l.*; but in the two last years are added the sums collected as fines under the Ordinance; viz., 98*l.* in the first and 74*l.* in the second year. The rest-house collections are a mere nothing, the highest receipt in any year having been 11*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, and in 1863 but 2*l.* 17*s.* 0*d.* was taken, the pay of the rest-house keeper being 12*l.* a year. I believe this to be in a great measure attributable to the want of accommodation and proper furniture in the rest-house, as well as to the great inconvenience of its position, which I shall have to invite attention to when I touch upon the question of the fiscal's establishment.

Principal Roads.

The road to Badulla, which is of very great importance to the trade of this district, and not less so to the comfort of residents in Ouvah, has had little or nothing expended upon it in 1863, and not much in the previous year; it is bitterly complained of as almost impassable, and the resting sheds are leaky and barely habitable.

In 1862, of the 412*l.* paid over in commutation to the Civil Engineer's Department for this work, 217*l.* odd remained unexpended, and must be lying idle, since it has not been returned to the district committee, to be spent on minor works, as was usual till that time; the commutation of the past year, another 412*l.*, is lying in deposit here; thus we have about 630*l.* of commutation which, as I understand the tenor, should be promptly spent on the works for which it is voted, lying over to form a fund until such time as the Civil Engineer and Commissioner of Roads shall have sufficient to justify his sending a company of pioneers to undertake the work, and can spare them for the purpose; at least this is what I understood him to say when I conversed with him on the subject when in Colombo last year. Now I trust I shall be held excused if, in the interest I feel in the district entrusted to my charge, I take the liberty to record my disapproval of such a course, as tending to very serious inconvenience and loss. With the pressure for roads in the Central Province it seems very doubtful to me if the Civil Engineer will ever be able to spare pioneers for a district so comparatively unimportant; but I would respectfully ask if that is a sufficient reason for that work which we have the funds to pay for not being undertaken. The Government votes have made up the sum to be expended on this particular line to 1,200*l.* or thereabouts. This sum, if the workmen were carefully looked after, would make a very visible annual improvement. We have plenty of carpenters, blacksmiths, and coolies, who would be glad of employment, and surely it would not be more difficult to obtain masons and good overseers from elsewhere than it was when they were needed for the irrigation works. I would earnestly urge attention to this subject, the road being both of political and mercantile importance.

Coast Road.

Considerable advance has been made on the coast line, which, in my opinion, should be made practicable for carts as far as the extensive village of Carencotetive, where there is large paddy cultivation. As soon, however, as the road from thence to the Kitenghe ferry has been fairly opened for cart traffic I think the line through the villages on the eastern coast of the lake should be opened out, and afterwards hardened, as money can be spared for the purpose. I cannot avoid repeating my belief that it would be cheaper to form inland water communication with the Trincomalie district than to make the road. We have now water communication for the first ten miles to Cannetive; from that a canal would have to be dug through low land to the Natoor river, about 4½ miles. Thence there is now water communication as far as Caremoone, which is about 34 miles from this. A canal will be required for about five miles from that, to a place called Oopoocotoo, from which point boats can be taken as far as Cadravelly. Doubtless some money would be needed to deepen these old channels, but the cost would be far less than would have to be incurred in making the road, which must necessarily be taken over heavy sand and through swamps.

As the bridge from Pulientivoe to Cotemoone, which has been so long talked of, and lately promised to the people by Sir Charles MacCarthy, is upon this line, I cannot do better than here call attention to it. The promise having been made through me, I am naturally most anxious that a show should be made of the intention to carry it out; and I would respectfully urge that some step should be taken towards it, if only in the collection of materials, to remove the great disappointment felt at the estimate having been struck out of the Supply Ordinance for 1864. It needs not that any large sum should be spent at once; but I respectfully submit that if some commencement were made it would cause confidence in the intention of carrying out the promise at as early a date as practicable.

This work was first urged upon Government by the District Road Committee here some twelve years ago.

Minor Roads.

The road connecting the villages on the western shore of the lake from Couengamoone towards Samantorre, some 30 miles in length, has been greatly improved. It will require a considerable outlay to complete it, as there are several large streams and many smaller ones which will have to be bridged over.

Eraoor.

A survey has been made of the native track from Eraoor to Tirreli Odey, a stream and rest-shed some 25 miles on the road to Badulla. If a proper trace were made between these two places, I believe the distance could be reduced some six or eight miles, and it would perhaps be worthy consideration whether that should not be adopted as the main road, for from what I have heard from the surveyor, and from natives who takes tavelams along that line, many streams and watercourses are avoided here that intersect the other, and it passes by several villages, which would render it preferable to the other route, which does not.

I may here, though perhaps, rather out of place, suggest that it would be of considerable advantage to this district, and no less so to that portion of the Central Province which lies between Meda Maha Newera and Alootnewera, if the native path from the latter village to the Ouvah and Batticaloa road near the Madoore Oya were opened out, as I have no doubt but that rice, fish, oil, &c. would then be supplied to the estates there in considerable quantities from this.

A few lanes have been opened out and levelled between the main road which runs by Callady and Catancoody and the lake, but much more remains to be done.

Minor Works.

The circular road round the northern and eastern shores of the island of Pulientivoe was raised and graveled, but has been somewhat damaged by floods. Landing jetties for passenger boats have been put up near the court house and on the opposite shore at Catamoone; and a retaining wall, so that the space between the court house and customs shall be raised above the height of the floods, has been partly built. It is intended to carry out a strong landing jetty for goods, of such length that dhonies and such square-rigged vessels as can enter the lake may unload on to it. The roads of the esplanade have been improved, and that from the District Judge's residence to the court house has been graveled, as also have one or two streets in the town. The pioneer road has been raised and graveled for about 450 yards. This work is very popular among the residents of Catamoone, Amurthagallee, &c., and will, I believe, prove very useful when completed.

Buildings.

I can say but little more than I did last year upon the subject of public buildings. The cutcherry officers have again been put to great inconvenience, and business has been frequently stopped, because the verandahs are open, and the rain, drifts through the whole breadth of it when the wind is high. The assistant agent's residence is even more unsafe and uncomfortable than it was.

The court house roof has had to be propped up. The site, as I have before said, is inconvenient both to litigants and traders, it being too near the custom house.

The custom house has no storage room for goods landed, or waiting for shipment, so that much is often slightly injured by rain.

The District Judge's residence needs repair.

The gaol is in worse condition than it was last year, and then it was considered very unsafe, not only as regards the escape of prisoners, but also the persons of those confined in it, the rafters being rotten.

The rest-house being within a few feet of it renders it most difficult, if not impracticable, to enforce gaol regulations strictly, and to prevent prisoners for further examination or hard labour from having communication with those outside. The building given up as a rest-house was the cutcherry till June 1860, when the establishment was moved into the new one in the fort. The old cutcherry is not at all adapted for a rest-house, though it would serve very well as a residence for the gaoler, and I would take the liberty to suggest that it should be appropriated to that purpose, and other accommodation be furnished for travellers.

Fiscal's Department.

Feeling that the establishment allotted to me for conducting the duties of the fiscal's department here is very insufficient, I cannot conclude my report without making a few remarks on the subject.

The returns sent from the court will show the comparative amount of labour to be got through, as compared with many other stations. The establishment consists of a clerk, at 75*l.* a year; a translator, at 36*l.*; head process server, at 16*s.* 10*d.* a month; six process servers, at 12*s.* each per mensem; a gaoler at 36*l.* a year; and two peons at 12*s.* each per month.

* * * * * *

The average daily number of prisoners in gaol here last year was nineteen, but on 30th May last there were no less than forty-one, thirty-eight of whom were for further examination on a charge of murder.

The duty of the gaol guard is continuous throughout the twenty-four hours. One of the two peons has to remain at the gaol the whole day; the other accompanies the hard-labour prisoners to their work. When but few prisoners are in custody the peons take it in turn nominally to watch the gaol at night, but really to sleep on the premises, for it is evident that no proper watch can be kept at night by men who have been on duty the whole of the previous day; and it should be borne in mind that we have no military guard here.

When there are many in gaol or when desperate characters, or prisoners on a charge of murder, or under sentence of death, are in custody, it is usual to employ extra peons, and to have two on duty at night. From this I think it must be obvious that with so limited an establishment it is impossible that the work of this department can be carried on efficiently; and I would further bring to notice, that the pay of a common coolie, which when I came here in 1854 was 10*s.* 6*d.* a month, has now risen to 15*s.*, or one fourth more than the pay of a peon, who, in addition to having a certain amount of responsibility, is compelled to be respectably dressed. Considering all these circumstances, and the fact that their position lays them particularly open to the temptation of bribery, the case of the prisoner, and his opportunities of communicating with his friends, depending so much upon their vigilance and probity, or the want of these virtues, I respectfully suggest that to secure the services of good men the rate of pay must be raised so much as shall make the loss of appointment really a serious matter to them.

I would further take the liberty to suggest that were the fiscal's clerk appointed deputy fiscal, subject to the orders of the assistant agent, also holding a deputation, he could then by right, sign returns to ordinary processes, and attend to minor details, which the assistant agent, by his other occupations, is sometimes prevented from doing, or often greatly inconvenienced by having to attend to.

Up to the middle of 1853, when I went home on leave, all processes were signed by me; but Mr. Birch, when acting during my absence, threw this duty, as regards summonses, subpœnas, &c., upon the clerk, who has continued it up to the present time; but the other day, having occasion to find fault with a return which represented a well-known person as not to be found, he informed me

CEYLON.

that should it occur again he would not receive returns to process unless signed by me. This would frequently most seriously interfere with my other duties, and it is on that account I now ask that a deputation be granted to Mr. Wambeek. I can testify that he is generally careful in the execution of his duties, and that the work of the department here, though very heavy, is far more regularly performed than I have seen it elsewhere. Of course he makes mistakes now and then, but that, any man is liable to whose time is very fully occupied.

(Signed) J. MORPHEW,
Assistant Government Agent.

Batticaloa Cutcherry, March 29, 1864.

REMARKS on Report of Assistant Agent of Batticoloa for 1863.

Arrears of Revenue.

I have intimated that, as a rule, the rents are for ready money, although, for the convenience of the assistant agent and cultivator, who may not attend the sale prepared with funds, a few days' grace may be allowed, but that no one should be permitted to take up the rent until the amount is paid. If there should be any delay, a resale should take place, at the risk of the first purchaser, and the Government share should be set aside, if necessary, for the convenience of the cultivators.

Paddy.

Forty thousand bushels were exported to Jaffna in 1863, independent of large supplies sent to the interior, and there should be an increase of production, by turning the labour employed on clearing jungles into this more legitimate grain cultivation.

Arrack.

The receipts for 1855 were 522*l.* 10*s.*, not 267*l.* 10*s.*, as erroneously stated; but the increase is very satisfactory; not that there is more drunkenness in the district, but that there is less toddy and spirits illegally sold, and also that the improved condition of the people enable many to indulge in luxuries previously forbidden.

I quite agree with the assistant agent that there should be some check on the adulteration of spirits, so long as the Government keeps the monopoly.

The question of reserve of spirits to be issued to the renter has lately been discussed. This is the first time for some years that the Batticaloa renter has failed in his supply.

Post Office.

This department is everywhere underpaid. I consider the post office clerk at Calmone should be exclusively under the assistant agent.

Salt.

The increase in the year is satisfactory, but the comparison on the two years specified seems by an oversight to be incorrectly shown, although verbally correct. In 1853 the retail of salt was rented. The receipt under that head was 489*l.* 2*s.* 9½*d.*, and sale, according to my account, 474*l.* 10*s.*, making a total of 963*l.* 12*s.* 9½*d.* There were 7,985 cwts. 2 qrs. of salt sold in that year to the retailer at 1*s.*, and only 272 cwts. 2 qrs. at the wholesale price. Had all the salt issued in that year been paid for, as it is now, at the wholesale price, the sale would have realized 1,926*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*; whilst the average sale of the last four years has been 1,965*l.* 16*s.* 5¾*d.*

There is no doubt but that much of the salt formerly sold to retailers at the low rate was sent to the interior, so that the issues are not much increased; but the Government, under the present system, receives the full price for all that is sold.

Badulla Road.

The delay, I believe, has been consequent on the objections by the Provincial Road Committee to expend more money until satisfied that the present line should be adopted. The committee wished to ascertain whether some of the numerous nullahs and steep gradients cannot be avoided, instead of continuing a large expenditure annually on parts that must eventually be abandoned. I fully agree in the necessity for urging on the work, and I think the course adopted, of reserving the funds until a satisfactory line be decided on, is a wise one. Instead of pioneers, I consider, if there is any hardship in preventing chena clearing, the inhabitants of the district have at hand a good field for superfluous labour by employment on the roads.

Coast Road.

I quite agree with the assistant agent that interior water communication with Trincomalie would be more feasible and far more economical than a permanent road; but I fear the present state of the Eastern Province would not warrant such an expenditure.

Minor Roods, Eraoor.

I have long considered this a preferable line to that of Corringamormai, which necessitates four miles water carriage from Pulientivoe. The Commissioner of Roads, however, appears to be averse to it but I am of opinion, that if no great natural impediments exist; this line should be adopted in preference to the other.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. MORRIS,
Government Agent.

Trincomalie, April 14, 1864.

HONG KONG.

No. 24.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor SIR HERCULES ROBINSON to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 110.)

SIR, Hong Kong, July 26, 1864.

I HAVE the honor to forward the Blue Book of Hong Kong for the year 1863, with a report upon it by the Colonial Secretary.

As this officer was in the administration of the Government during the whole of the period embraced in these returns, I consider it unnecessary to add any remarks of my own upon occurrences which did not come under my personal observation.

Mr. Mercer accounts satisfactorily for the decrease in the revenue, and shows that in all other respects the material interests of the Colony have steadily advanced.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON.

To the Right Honourable E. Cardwell, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No.

SIR, Colonial Secretary's Office, Hong Kong, July 19, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency the Blue Book for 1863.

2. The year, though differing in an important respect from its predecessors, shows substantial and satisfactory proof of progress.

3. The revenue is $576,375 (£120,078 2*s.* 6*d.*), or $54,884 (£11,434 3*s.* 4*d.*) less than that of 1862, but $10,000 more than what was estimated, and the one respect to which I allude fully explains the falling off from the preceding year. For the difficulties about Korsloon not having yet been arranged, there was little land to be brought into the market, and the estimated premium on land sold being $72,000 (£15,000 0 0), only $6,490 (£1,352 0 0) of this was realized; against $142,612 (£29,710 0 0) realized in the year 1862.

4. As a further and conclusive proof of the satisfactory state of the general revenue, I may point out that putting aside this item of premium, what I may call the ordinary or permanent revenue for the three past years stands as follows:—

1861	-	-	$435,158 (£90,658 0 0).
1862	-	-	$488,647 (£101,801 0 0).
1863	-	-	$569,885 (£118,726 0 0).

5. It may be said that the ground at Causeway Bay might have been put forward for sale, but with the district of Bowrington (nearer the centres of business) sold and still unbuilt over, this would not have been a prudent measure, and subsequent events (not belonging to 1863) have justified the delay in disposing of it.

Expenditure.

6. In the expenditure there is a slight decrease as compared with the previous year, less being spent on public works, but a considerable augmentation being shown under Police and Gaols. It is about $10,000 over the revenue, and $33,800 less than the expenditure estimated.

Ordinances.

7. The Ordinances passed are eight in number, of which three may be particularly mentioned. No. 4 of 1863 for the Regulation of Gaols; this was rendered necessary by the receipt of orders from home to provide for the reception and custody of prisoners at Stonecutters' Island, and the opportunity was taken to revise and amend the rules under which the gaol in Victoria has been managed.

No. 5 of 1863 for the better Collection of the Rates leviable in the Colony: the great delay and difficulty in the collection of them, called for an improved system, which came into operation on the 1st July, and the result was shown in there being the sum of of $2,500 outstanding on 31st December 1863 against $8,052 on the previous 31st December.

HONG KONG.

No. 6 of 1863 for controlling Chair Bearers: this Ordinance has worked well and been admitted to be a great boon to the public.

The Ordinance against fraudulent trade marks may also be noted.

Government Notifications.

8. Several useful notifications on local points have appeared from time to time in the Government Gazette, but I am not aware that any require special notice here.

Gaols.

9. The gaol in Victoria was finished in this year and occupied; a new superintendent arrived from home, and a great improvement was visible in the gaol discipline and management.

The drafting off of a large number (280) of long-sentence men from Victoria Gaol to the convict hulk at Stonecutters' Island assisted this amelioration of the former establishment; but the movement was one that caused much anxiety to the Government, not only from the isolated position of the new prison and the uncertainty of a military guard or naval gunboat being furnished, but from the extreme difficulty of getting trustworthy and careful gaol officers.

To obtain experienced men on the spot was out of the question; but, on application to the Home Government, an expert superintendent has since been appointed.

After a very short time the military guard was withdrawn, and some time after the gunboat. The police strength was then as far as possible increased, and but one attack has hitherto been attempted. The only casualty up to the end of the year being the loss by drowning of 38 of the convicts, owing to their upsetting a boat in their eagerness to seek shelter on board the hulk.

Since then the original intention of the Government to moor the hulk alongside a shore pier instead of anchoring it at a distance off has been carried into effect, and prevented a repetition of such accidents.

Waterworks.

10. Towards the conclusion of the year the waterworks were reported so far completed as to warrant the levy of the rate under Ordinance No. 12 of 1860. They have cost considerable more than was originally anticipated, but the insufficiency of the estimate was recognized in the original ordinance.

The works have been efficiently constructed and are a great benefit to this populous city, but they will require large extension, as it is found impossible to afford a supply to that part of Victoria lying to the farther east.

Gas.

11. I alluded in my last year's report to the subject of gas, and am glad to say that during 1863 the matter was further ventilated, and has now been advanced nearly to completion.

Population.

12. The population seems to increase in an equable ratio with the place itself, and shows a small advance on last year's return, the numbers being 123,511 for 1862, and 124,850 for 1863.

Shipping.

13. The harbour master's returns show a considerable increase on the shipping arrived in the port, as thus:—

1861,	1,259	vessels of	658,196 tonnage.
1862,	1,390	,,	688,829 ,,
1863,	1,822	,,	894,924 ,,

Emigration.

14. There is a slight falling off in Chinese emigrants, the number being 7,809, and nearly an equal number returned from foreign countries during the year.

Military Stores Proclamation.

15. In the month of February, by direction of Her Majesty's Government, a proclamation was issued forbidding the export of military stores, with a view to prevent

the supply of arms and ammunition to the Taeping rebels, but as a similar prohibition was not extended to the Home and Indian ports the consequence was a derangement to some extent of mercantile operations, and very great inconvenience to this Government.

The proclamation however was strictly carried out as far as the absence of a customs' department permitted, and numerous confiscations were made.

Police.

16. I regret to say that, notwithstanding the intelligence and zeal of the captain superintendent of police and his assistant, I cannot make a favourable report of the force under them. There are doubtless great difficulties in their way, owing to the lawless and strange people with whom they have to deal; but the men of the corps themselves, whether European or Indian, are wanting in most of the essentials of a police force.

Crime.

17. While on this subject I may remark that the returns show an increase of crime.

Health.

18. The colonial surgeon's annual report is satisfactory, and the sanatory commission to which he alludes sat throughout the year, sending in their report in the month of December. This report has been placed before the Home Government, and, as occasion arises, effect will be given to several of the suggestions of the commission; some of these have already been adopted, as Dr. Murray observes, with good result.

Volunteers.

19. A favourable account of the Hong Kong volunteers was received in August last, and the spirit of the corps seems to have by no means diminished during the year, but on the contrary to have increased with its numbers.

Education.

20. The attention paid to education has been steadily continued, but I am not sure that sufficient time has elapsed to allow of our seeing signs of the results expected; at any rate it is difficult to trace at present any practical result commensurate with the large outlay ($7,315) under this head.

At some of the outlying villages the schools have been discontinued, which accounts for the falling off of the numbers enrolled; but that the loss is none in this respect is shown by the average attendance being nearly the same in 1863 and 1862.

Civil Service Cadets.

21. The three Civil Service Cadets who came out in the end of 1862 have well employed their time during the past year, and give promise of good future assistance to this Government. They underwent two probationary examinations during the twelve months, and were on each occasion favourably reported.

Post Office.—Mint and subsidiary Coinage.

22. In this resumé of the affairs of the Colony it is impossible to pass over so important a department as the Post Office, the work of which has been for some time gradually increasing with the increasing trade. The introduction of postage stamps, as in Europe and elsewhere, has been a step in the course of progress, as has been that of a subsidiary coinage and the foundation of a mint; but these latter subjects come more properly within the affairs of the current year.

23. I cannot conclude my remarks without drawing attention to the improvements in the outward look of Victoria. The many houses newly erected of sightly exterior, the extension of the praya or sea road eastward, the increase of vegetation upon the public roads and around the private dwellings, the construction of the new Government gardens, and the elegant drinking fountain presented by the liberality of a late member of the Legislative Council, all combine not only to give an improved appearance to the city, but to assist its sanitary condition and to add to the general comfort of its inhabitants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Sir H. G. R. Robinson.

LABUAN.

No. 25.

LABUAN.

No. 25.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor CALLAGHAN to his Grace the DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 17.)

MY LORD DUKE, Labuan, April 15, 1864.

I HAVE the honor to transmit the Blue Book of Labuan for the year 1863.

2. As the prospects of this colony are so entirely dependent upon the successful development of its coal mines, I shall at the outset proceed to describe the progress made by the Labuan Coal Company during the past year.

3. The quantity of coal raised in 1863 was 10,807 tons, being an increase upon the yield of the previous year of 7,602 tons. It was raised principally from levels.

4. Considerable progress was made in sinking a pit to the largest vein of coal.

5. Since the close of the year this vein has been reached at a depth of 44 fathoms, where it was found to be not less than 10 feet in thickness. It lies below two other viens of coal of five feet and three feet six inches respectively.

6. The coal has been used in several of Her Majesty's vessels and in merchant steamers, and the reports upon its quality have been generally favourable.

7. A steamer of about 1,000 tons burthen arrived in December last under charter to the Labuan Coal Company, and has since been employed in carrying coals from this to Hong Kong.

8. The supply of labour in the colony is extremely small, and the company have been obliged to import Chinese and other Asiatic coolies; but now that the operations are likely to become more extended, a much larger amount of labour than has hitherto been employed will be required. To procure this of the kind suitable for such an undertaking will, I fear, be attended with difficulty.

9. Taking all the circumstances into account, the progress made during the year must be regarded as satisfactory.

There can now be little doubt that coal of good quality exists in considerable abundance in the island.

10. The local revenue for 1863 amounted to 2,086*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, and exceeeded that of the previous year by 427*l.* 13*s.* 8½*d.*

This is chiefly owing to the increased employment given at the coal mines.

11. The expenditure, exclusive of the cost of the troops, was 7,430*l.* 0*s.* 3½*d.*

12. The principal public works undertaken were the clearing and draining of a part of the plain adjoining the town, and the construction of about five miles of a road through the jungle on the way to the coal mines from the southern end of the island. These works are still in progress.

13. The roads and drains were kept in good order by convict labour.

14. The behaviour of the convicts during the year was generally good.

15. I regret to say that there was a good deal of fever, which in several instances proved fatal. Its attacks were principally confined to persons recently arrived in the island.

16. Judging from the intelligence received upon the subject, piracy appears to have been committed to a much less serious extent in 1863 than in the previous year along the north-west coast of Borneo. This, I think, is mainly attributable to the presence of one of Her Majesty's gun boats on the station.

17. The resources of Borneo are so little developed and the condition of its scanty population is so low, that I fear there is no prospect of much commerce springing up in this part of the world for a long time to come.

18. The trade of this colony still continues to be very small.

19. However, if the coal mines can be successfully worked, I need scarcely say that this in itself will be sufficient to establish the importance of Labuan as a British possession.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. F. CALLAGHAN,

Governor.

The Right Hon. the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 26.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 26.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-General SIR WILLIAM CODRINGTON, K.C.B., to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR.

Revenue.

There has been an increase on the various items over the amount received in 1862 of 906*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, and a decrease on others of 2,831*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, leaving the total decrease of revenue 1,925*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* sterling.

The chief items on which the revenue has decreased are,—

Firstly, the duties on spirits, 1,030*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*; secondly, the rates and duties of the Port Department, 674*l.*; and thirdly, ground and house rents, 540*l.* 17*s.*

The consumption of spirits has been gradually decreasing for some years; the duties in—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1857 were - - -	10,711	13	7¼
1858 „ - -	9,379	5	4
1859 „ - - -	9,808	9	3½
1860 „ - -	9,669	0	0
1861 „ - - -	8,532	5	7
1862 „ - -	7,889	17	0
1863 „ - - -	6,859	11	9

I do not imagine we can expect a larger revenue than 7,000*l.* from this source in future. The decrease is caused by the large importation of beer, owing to the facility and regularity of steam boat traffic, and the establishment during the last two years of canteen huts in the barracks; and I cannot regret that the consumption of spirits by the soldiers has given place to that of beer.

The following table will show the great decrease in the importation of spirits and increase of beer and porter:—

Year.	Wine.	Spirits.	Ale and Porter.			
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Quarter Casks.	Total Gallons.
1857	107,636	56,622	1,102	74	1,241	104,800
1858	106,762	48,824	1,548	115	1,080	130,434
1859	122,837	51,063	2,201	109	2,067	196,983
1860	139,968	50,346	3,391	161	1,914	270,159
1861	131,450	44,425	2,658	95	1,702	215,696
1862	139,397	42,090	3,708	150	1,502	278,956
1863	136,201	35,714	4,895	102	1,498	351,617

This decrease in the rates and duties of the Port Department has been caused by fewer vessels entering the port, owing to the great prevalence of easterly winds during the past year.

Ground and house rents really remain about the same; but in some years more arrears are paid up than in others, which makes the apparent difference.

Expenditure.

The increase of the expenditure over the former year amounts to 2,574*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* sterling.

The sum of 3,847*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* has been expended on new and permanent works, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
New police office (unfinished) - - - -	2,000	0	0
New police shed (finished) - - - -	198	0	2
Offices of registrar of births, civil engineer, &c. - -	149	14	7
Rebuilding the Roman Catholic Chapel, Catalan Bay -	350	0	0
Converting police office into residence for the magistrate -	149	18	0
Convent alterations unfinished - - -	999	19	1

Revenue and Expenditure.

The state of the probable revenue and expenditure for the present year, exclusive of permanent new works, will be,—revenue, 30,084*l.*; expenditure, 29,748*l.*, leaving a balance in favor of revenue of about 336*l.* sterling.

These new works must be regarded in the light of a special expenditure, which, although necessary, could not be undertaken until there was a surplus in hand, which is the case at present.

Population and Mortality.

The resident population according to a census taken in June 1860 amounts to 15,462*l.*; this exclusive of military convicts, and aliens on temporary permits, varying from three days to a year.

The number of the latter varies, but in December last was 1,031.

The number of births among the resident population was 608; deaths, 413.

Under the head of Miscellaneous Returns are inserted the number of cases heard and disposed of in the various courts of law in Gibralter.

The schools are 11 in number, in which are educated 1158 boys and 972 girls; besides these there are seven regimental schools in which are instructed 268 boys and 242 girls.

A * return of imports and exports is furnished by the Chamber of Commerce in Gibraltar, and I append also a letter from the Chairman on the subject. Not printed.

Gibraltar being nominally a free port it is impossible to arrive at exact statistics except in the case of wines and spirits, on which a duty is levied.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. J. CODRINGTON.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State for War,
&c. &c. &c.

MALTA.

No. 27.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. G. LE MARCHANT, G.C.M.G. to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 30.)

SIR, Palace, Valletta, May 13, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the "Blue Book" of Malta for the year 1863, and to subjoin a statement in regard to the Revenue and Expenditure of these Islands during that year, which has been furnished by the Auditor General.

2. The gross Revenue of Malta during the five years immediately preceding 1863 was—

1858	-	-	142,350	Average, say £146,765.
1859	-	-	147,385	
1860	-	-	145,944	
1861	-	-	144,344	
1862	-	-	153,806	

3. The gross Revenue of 1863 was 157,831*l.* 1*s.* 5¼*d.*, being in round numbers 11,066*l.* above the average of the five preceding years, and 4,025*l.* more than the Revenue of 1862. This latter increase is chiefly in "imports" of wheat and inferior wine, and may be fairly taken as an index of prosperity among the industrial classes of the community.

MALTA.

4. The Receipts of the two principal branches of Revenue, namely, Rents of Property and Customs Dues, as compared with 1862, are—

—	1862.	1863.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Lands	12,545 16 8½	3,178 5 9½	632 9 1	—
Houses	23,879 2 9¼	23,131 12 1	—	747 10 8¼
	36,424 19 5¾	36,309 17 10½	—	115 1 7¼
Imports	93,466 12 7	97,243 15 4	3,777 2 9	—
Tonnage	5,478 17 6	5,114 3 0	—	364 14 6
Store rent	1,775 7 4	1,851 3 3	75 15 11	—
	100,720 17 5	104,209 1 7	3,852 18 8	364 14 6
		Increase	£ 3,488 4 2	

showing an aggregate increase of 3,373*l.* 2*s.* 6¾*d.*

5. The provision made for the year was—

—	Establishment.	Exclusive.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General Estimate	66,611 16 0	77,087 0 0	143,698 16 0
Supplemental Ordinance, No. I. of 1864, not yet approved by the Queen	361 9 11	37,761 8 2	38,122 18 1
Reserved Balance of Special Service under the direction of the Secretary of State	- - -	472 16 3	472 16 3
	66,973 5 11	115,321 4 5	182,294 10 4

6. The gross Expenditure in 1863 was—

—	Establishments.	Exclusive.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Local charges	65,916 14 1	93,780 15 11
Crown agents	284 11 1	3,091 11 5
	66,201 5 2	96,872 7 4

being 6,592*l.* 11*s.* 8¾*d.* above the Revenue of the year, exclusive of the Dividends on Stock in Consols, which are reinvested for a special purpose.

7. The expenditure on account of Services which, for purposes of calculation, may, in my opinion, be fairly considered as Charges against the Credit Balance of former years, was:—

——	General Estimate.			Supplemental Estimate.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Opera House, exclusive of exchange of property, but including the demolition of Torre Barracks	2,000	0	0	2,392	11	0
Construction of St. Elena tank	382	0	5	—		
Completion of Lunatic Asylum under "Works and Buildings"	138	3	3	—		
Under "Hospitals"	416	14	9	—		
Civil Powder Magazine	-	-	-	1,770	12	10
"Tal Horr" Cemetery, exclusive of exchange of land	-	-	-	1,158	17	11
Road to "Tal Horr" Cemetery	-	-	-	571	4	1
"San Guiseppe" Cemetery	-	-	-	270	12	0
Cutting rock, &c. near the new theatre	-	-	-	333	9	0
"Migiarro" Road to "Robato Gozo"	408	5	6	—		
"Ridolfo" Road, Malta	-	-	-	60	0	0
New Harbour Revenue services	-	-	-	12,306	19	6
Bollards for new Harbour	-	-	-	163	10	0
Damages in Roads near the new Harbour	-	-	-	268	16	9
Footpath in new Harbour	-	-	-	300	0	0
Hauling-up slip	-	-	-	1,400	0	0
Expenses of Exhibition of 1861	111	16	3	—		
Expenses of the census	203	14	11	—		
£	3,660	15	1	20,996	13	1

Some of these items are included in the General Estimates as chargeable against the Revenue of the year.

8. The Ordinances involving a direct increase of expenditure which came into effect in 1863 are:—

Ordinance No. 2. for registration of births, deaths, and marriages, the expenses under which amounted to 259*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*; and Ordinance No. 5. of 1862, for the deposit of goods free of duty, the total cost of which, including the rent of a store appropriated to that service, amounted to 124*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*; but it does not appear that any goods free of duty were deposited in the charge of the Customs in 1863.

9. The actual state of the Finances of Malta at the close of 1863 will be seen from the following statement:—

				£	s.	d.
Gross Credit Balance on 31st December 1863				36,394	17	10¾
Add Revenue of 1863:—						
Local			156,481 0 9¼			
Crown Agents			1,350 0 8			
				157,831	1	5¼
				194,225	19	4
Deduct Expenditure of 1863:—						
Local			159,697 10 0			
Crown agents			3,376 2 6			
				163,073	12	6
				31,152	6	10
Less difference between the Consols dividends received from 1859 to 1863, and the amount invested, *i.e.*, expenses of commission, &c.				59	11	1
				£31,092	15	9

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 28.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 28.

[Not received.]

FALKLANDS.

No. 29.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 29.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MACKENZIE to His Grace the DUKE of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 32.) Government House, Falkland Islands, June 12th, 1864.

MY LORD DUKE,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the annual Blue Book for the year 1863.

2. The most satisfactory tables are those of the Imports and Exports, the former showing an aggregate increase over last year's return of 3,126*l.*, and the latter an increase of 2,859*l.* over the exports of the preceding year.

3. The Returns of Shipping show an increase of three in the number of vessels visiting this port for repairs and provisions during the year 1863, but a decrease in the tonnage of 4,967 tons burthen as compared with the year 1862.

4. I have appended to the Blue Book enclosed, the Gaol Regulations and other documents usually sent with it.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. G. MACKENZIE,

Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.

&c. &c. &c.

LONDON:

Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,

Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.

For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

REPORTS

SHOWING THE

PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1864.

PART I.—WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
20th July 1866.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE.
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1866.

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SCHEDULE.

No. in Series.	Colony.	Page.
1	JAMAICA	4
2	BRITISH HONDURAS	10
3	BAHAMAS	15
4	TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS	65
5	TRINIDAD	70
6	BRITISH GUIANA	78
7	BARBADOS	80
8	GRENADA	88
9	TOBAGO	95
10	ST. VINCENT	97
11	ST. LUCIA	100
12	ANTIGUA	105
13	MONTSERRAT	119
14	ST. CHRISTOPHER	120
15	NEVIS	129
16	VIRGIN ISLANDS	133
17	DOMINICA	138
18	MAURITIUS	139

PART I.

WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

JAMAICA.

No. 1.

JAMAICA.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor EYRE to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(Separate.)

SIR, King's House, September 25, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit in duplicate the Annual Blue Book for Jamaica for the year 1864, and to accompany it with the following remarks :—

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The form in which these returns have for years past appeared in the Blue Books does not afford a clear statement of the actual transactions of the year, or enable any one to classify all the receipts or payments under distinct headings.

This arises from the peculiar manner in which the Treasury books have been kept during the incumbency of the late Receiver-General, and which succeeding Governors have found it impossible to alter during his lifetime.

The returns do not even show the whole revenue and expenditure, as much of that connected with the roads, with the parishes, and with immigration is omitted, and sums devoted to these objects do not appear.

Loans, interest, redemption of loans, transfers of general revenue to particular accounts, or from one account to another, are all jumbled up together with ordinary receipts or payments, and add to the confusion, and many sums are thus put down under some general heading which comprehends items that ought to be separate and distinct.

Thus under the head of "import duties," the additional import duties, amounting to 10,905*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*, are altogether omitted because specifically appropriated to the roads. The export duties are put down at 11,543*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*, though in reality they amount to 18,911*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, because the difference (7,367*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*) is appropriated to immigration purposes. The sum raised by taxes upon breeding stock, horses, carts, &c. is put down at 11,382*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*, though amounting to 29,264*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, because the difference (17,882*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) is applied to main and parochial roads. The main road loans, amounting to 7,123*l.*, do not appear at all.

The sum of 1,522*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, put down as a receipt from perpetual annuity, is a mere transfer from one account to another. So is the sum of 1,630*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, put down as "Loan, 18 Vict. cap. 60, to repay," &c. &c. &c.

So also with the expenditure side, 27,813*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* for main roads is altogether omitted; so is 15,763*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* for parochial roads; so is 6,815*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* invested for a fund for back passages of immigrants. And so with many other items, both of receipts and expenditure.

Having called for a return of all the receipts and payments not included in the Blue Book returns, a supplemental statement was forwarded to me, as ill arranged and as little intelligible as the original returns themselves. This supplemental statement I have had printed, and added to the Blue Book, at page C 9. Having now the whole of the transactions of the Treasury before me, though in a confused and unintelligible form, I called for the details of each of the sums inserted in the returns, and I then, at a great expenditure of time and labour, personally analysed the transactions of the year, and have so arranged and classified them that I trust they will now show in a clear and intelligible manner every source of revenue and expenditure under separate and appropriate headings, as well as all other transactions of the Treasury, which are mere transfers.

The respective Acts under which the services are arranged for are also quoted.

These new returns I have also had printed and added to the Blue Book; they comprise pages C 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16.

The Blue Book having been printed with all its deficiencies before I saw any of the returns, a long delay has unavoidably taken place in making the laborious analysis above referred to, and in then getting the results printed and added to the Blue Books.

Should you be pleased to approve of the form now adopted (pages C 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16), I will take care that in future it shall be substituted for the incomplete returns of revenue and expenditure which have heretofore been given in the Jamaica Blue Book, and which tend rather to mystify than elucidate the transactions of the Treasury.

3. *Revenue.*

There has been a large falling off in the receipts from import duties, probably owing to the depressed state of the Colony; also in receipts from still licences, owing to the

licence fee having been given up. The export duties have also fallen off, so also have the taxes raised upon stock, horses, carts, &c.

On the other hand there has been a considerable increase in the receipts under the Rum Duty Acts, due to some amendments in the Acts, and to a greater vigilance in working them. The stamp duties, the penitentiary and prison receipts, and some other items have also been larger this year than in 1863.

4. *Expenditure.*

The expenditure on the whole has increased. An augmentation has taken place in the cost of collecting the revenue; in the administration of justice, owing to the increase of crime; in the expenses of the Assembly, owing to protracted Sessions; in the department of the Executive Committee, owing to an increased establishment and to increased pay to the clerks; in the parochial contingencies, chiefly owing to increased provision for the poor; in the immigration expenditure, in providing for back passages; in steam communication with America; in payments of interests and sinking funds upon loans; and in military expenditure, owing to a payment to the Imperial Government of 2,404*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* of arrears due on account of fortifications.

5. *Public Debt.*

The total public debt, as shown by the Blue Book, amounts to 804,582*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
There has been paid off during the year - - -	18,262	6	0
But new loans have been taken up amounting to - -	36,293	5	11
Showing an increase in the public debt of - - -	18,030	19	11

This account, however, does not include the funds of the savings' banks or the Court of Chancery deposits, or the insolvent debtors' deposits, all of which in reality constitute part of the public debt.

These amounts stood as follows:—

	30 Sept. 1863.			30 Sept. 1864.			Increase.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Savings' banks deposits -	23,486	11	10	25,103	15	2	1,617	3	4
Court of Chancery deposits	941	16	8	1,128	7	9	186	11	1
Insolvent deposits -	8,031	12	9	9,284	5	1	1,252	12	4
	32,460	1	3	35,516	8	0	3,056	6	9

The total debt, therefore, amounts to 840,099*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, and the increase of debt during the year to 27,087*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The public debt, however, comprises various sums due to different charities and institutions upon which the Colony pays a high rate of interest for the support of such charities and institutions.

During the last session an Act was passed (28 Vict. cap. 23.) converting the debts due on account of these charities and institutions into perpetual annuities, as below stated:—

Charities and Institutions.	Principal.			Interest or Annuities.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Woolmers - - -	12,000	0	0	1,044	0	0
St. Jago de la Vega - -	600	0	0	60	0	0
Rusea's - - -	2,700	0	0	270	0	0
Gregory's Charity - -	2,400	0	0	144	0	0
Jamaica Free School - -	12,451	0	0	996	0	0
Manning's - - -	7,852	14	8	471	3	3
Presbyterian Institution -	2,262	12	0	181	0	0
Merrick's - - -	1,200	0	0	72	0	0
Smith's Charity - -	1,800	0	0	108	0	0
Munro and Dickenson's Charity	23,337	4	3	1,400	4	7
Vere - - - -	6,256	0	0	500	9	7
Manchester - - -	2,744	0	0	219	10	5
	64,803	10	11	5,466	7	10

JAMAICA.

A sum of 64,803*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.* has thus been removed from the public debt, and a perpetual annual payment of 5,466*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* has been granted instead.

Applying the above reduction to the debt above stated, the actual net debt of the Island on the 30th September 1864, would be 775,295*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*

The increase in the public debt has arisen from loans taken up chiefly for the reinstatement of public or parochial roads and bridges, or of public buildings.

6. *Military Expenditure.*

	By Great Britain.			By the Colony.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1863 - -	156,660	3	6	2,845	17	2
1864 - -	164,118	10	7	3,930	0	9
Increase - -	7,458	7	1	1,084	3	7

7. *Public Works.*

The public works are particularly stated at pages H 2 and H 3 of the Blue Book; but as they are spread over a large area of country, and are undertaken by various local bodies as well as by central departments, it is impossible to obtain a correct analysed statement in detail of all the several works. The new expenditure returns which I have appended to the Blue Book will show that the total expenditure for public works has been 16,007*l.*, 13*s.* 8*d.* (page C 14), on account of the tramway to Porus, 405*l.* (page C 14), and for roads and bridges generally, 484,791*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.* (page C 14).

8. *Legislation.*

Thirty-six Acts were passed during the year; the principal being to amend and consolidate the Statute Law, and to amend the immigration laws, and to repeal the charge of ten shillings on claims to vote at elections in certain cases. Other Acts were of a more or less general character, or mere renewals of laws about to expire.

9. *Political Franchise.*

Consists, first, of a clear annual income (after paying all debts) of 150*l.* for lands held by voter or voter's wife; second, a clear annual income of 200*l.*, arising partly from lands as aforesaid, and partly from any income from office or business (deducting all charges or expenses of such office or business); third, a clear annual income of 300*l.*, arising from office or business as aforesaid; fourth, the payment of taxes annually to the value of 10*l.*

10. *Councils and Assembly.*

The Privy Council consists of 15 members.
The Legislative Council consists of 17 members.
The House of Assembly consists of 47 members.

11. *Population.*

No census has been taken since May 1861. The returns then were, 213,521 males and 227,743 females; the females being in excess of the male population by nearly 7 per cent.

The white population at the same time was 13,816, or in the proportion of one white to 32 black or coloured.

There has been no addition to the population by immigration during the year.

12. *Miscellaneous Returns.*

There are seven savings' banks, with 2,306 depositors, and the united deposits amount to 49,460*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, showing a diminution of deposits of 8,695*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* during the year, though the number of depositors have increased by 84.

The number of immigrants in the Colony amounts to 5,279, of whom 1,477 are captured Africans, and 3,802 are coolies.

The number of paupers returned for the different parishes amounts to 5,465.

13. *Ecclesiastical Returns.*

The following are the returns given by the different denominations:—

Denominations.	Church Accommodation.	Persons generally attending.
Church of England	48,824	36,300
Baptist	31,640	26,483
Wesleyan	41,775	37,570
Presbyterian	12,575	7,955
Moravian Missions	11,850	9,650
London Missionary Society	8,050	6,780
Roman Catholics	4,110	1,870
American Mission	1,550	775
Hebrew	1,000	500
Church of Scotland	1,000	450
	162,374	128,333

14. *Education.*

The subjoined statement gives a general summary of the educational establishments:—

Number of Schools.	Denomination.	Number of Scholars.
122	Established Church	6,960
66	Baptist Day School	3,381
64	,, Sunday School	7,526
52	Wesleyan	2,965
48	Presbyterian	1,791
18	London Missionary Society	1,108
55	Moravian	3,434
1	Church of Scotland	130
12	Roman Catholic	404
2	Hebrew	100
27	Endowed Schools	2,437
8	American Mission	278
		30,514

15. *Imports.*

	£
The total imports in 1863 amounted in value to	1,087,529
The total imports in 1864 amounted in value to	1,142,919
Increase	55,390

The chief items in which an increased importation has taken place are:—

	£
Coals, to the value of	10,203
Goods non-enumerated	13,219
Rice, to the value of	1,662
Segars ,,	1,267
Soap ,,	2,759
Tobacco, Cavendish, to the value of	2,609
Tobacco leaf ,,	1,215
Wine, in bottles ,,	1,419
Wood shingles ,,	2,434
Wood lumber ,,	4,352
Ad valorem goods ,,	78,126
	119,265

JAMAICA.

The chief items in which a decreased importation has taken place are:—

	£
Ale and beer, to the value of	2,519
Beef ,,	1,334
Butter ,,	490
Candles ,,	3,110
Carts and carriages ,,	565
Drays ,,	1,885
Fish, dried ,,	4,966
Fish, wet ,,	3,937
Flour ,,	23,104
Hams and bacon ,,	2,040
Hardware ,,	416
Lard ,,	1,118
Leather manufactures, to the value of	553
Machinery ,,	2,386
Oil, castor ,,	796
Oils ,,	1,375
Pork ,,	7,164
Salt ,,	725
Shooks ,,	1,875
Spirits, brandy ,,	948
Stationery ,,	864
Tobacco, manufactured ,,	2,330
Tongues ,,	540
Wheat ,,	1,027
Wine, in bulk ,,	595
Wood manufactures ,,	799
Wood staves ,,	1,312
Wool, cotton ,,	5,392
	77,165

16. *Exports.*

	£	s.	d.
The total exports in 1863 amounted in value to	1,007,924	18	11
The total exports in 1864 amounted in value to	946,906	8	9
Decrease	61,018	10	2

The chief items in which a decreased exportation has taken place are:—

	£
Cattle, to the value of	840
Coals ,,	988
Coffee ,,	66,579
Copper, old ,,	1,042
Ginger ,,	1,588
Mules ,,	855
Rum ,,	26,701
Succades ,,	1,683
Wool, cotton ,,	9,921
	110,197

The chief articles in which an increased exportation has taken place are:—

	£
Cocoa-nuts, to the value of	607
Flour ,,	1,631
Merchandise, non-enumerated	903
Pimento, to the value of	4,259
Rice ,,	3,286
Sugar ,,	23,743
Dyewoods and mahogany, to the value of	11,228
Tobacco ,,	1,934
Wine ,,	898
	48,489

There has been a large falling off in coffee, rum, ginger, succades, and cotton, but the last is due to the non-importation of blockade-run cotton.

In sugar the quantity produced has been less, but the aggregate value is put down as greater, owing to the improved prices. Dye and other woods, and pimento have been exported to a greater extent than in the previous year.

17. *Shipping.*

The shipping arriving in the Colony has been greater than in the previous year.

Year.	Number of Vessels.	Number of Tons.	Number of Men.
1863 -	524	122,753	5,810
1864 -	548	145,084	6,643
Increase	24	22,331	833

18. *Gaols and Prisons.*

In 1863 there were committed	-	-	4,239
In 1864 „	-	-	5,141
Increase	-	-	902

19. *Charitable Institutions.*

Public Hospital.

The daily average number of patients was 170, and the total number of patients treated during the year was 2,205. The cost of the institution was 7,828*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*

Lunatic Asylum.

The daily average number of inmates was 177, and the total number treated during the year 253. The cost of the institution was 5,535*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*

General and Marine Hospital, Montego Bay.

The daily average number of inmates was 6, and the total number treated during the year, 122. The cost of the institution was 358*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*

Falmouth Marine Hospital.

The daily average number of inmates is not given, but the number treated was 76. The cost of the institution was 379*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*

Metcalfe Dispensary, City of Kingston.

The number of patients treated during the year was 464, and the cost of the institution 213*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*

Church Alms House, Kingston.

The number of inmates was 32, and the cost of the institution 383*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*

Nurse Training Institution, Kingston.

The number of patients admitted was 39. The cost of the institution, 233*l.* 14*s.*

St. George's Reformatory for Boys.

Number of inmates, 163. Admitted during the year, 54. Apprenticed out, 49. Cost of the establishment, 2,167*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*

Girls' Reformatory.

Number of inmates, 90. Admitted during the year, 20. Discharged, 19. Cost of the institution, 1,100*l.*

JAMAICA.

Milk River Bath.

Number of persons admitted during the year, 229. Annual grants by the Legislature, 324*l.*

Bath of St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Thomas in the East.

Number of persons admitted, 345. Cost of the institution, 151*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*

The total cost of the charitable institutions, and of the relief of the poor, amounted, in 1864, to 43,918*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*

20. This Despatch has been necessarily deferred to a late period of the year in consequence of the delay occasioned by a fresh analysis and re-arrangement of the public revenue and expenditure, as mentioned in paragraph 2.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. EYRE.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

P.S.—The occurrence of the recent rebellion and the pressure of work arising out of it unavoidably postponed the getting ready and transmission of this Despatch when it was first drafted.—E. EYRE. 22 Nov. 1865.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor EYRE to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 91.)

SIR, King's House, Jamaica, August 28, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of British Honduras, forwarding the Blue Book for the year 1864.

2. The Report indicates generally a favourable state and progress of the Colony. The revenue has increased whilst the expenditure has decreased as compared with the previous year.

3. There is a considerable improvement in the getting up of the present Blue Book, but the detailed information required in the right hand pages of the Imports and Exports is still omitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. EYRE.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Lieutenant-Governor AUSTIN to Governor EYRE.

(No. 87.)

SIR, Government House, Belize, August 10, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of British Honduras for the year 1864, and to report thereon as follows:

Duties, Taxes, Fees.

2. The only alteration to be noted under these heads is the imposition of an import duty of 1 per cent. for payment of the bonds issued under the South of Belize Improvement Act.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. Both revenue and expenditure contrast favourably in 1864 against 1863, the former showing an increase of 4,146*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, and the latter a decrease of 277*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* sterling.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue - 1864 - - - - -	31,544	8	0
„ - 1863 - - - - -	27,397	15	3
Expenditure 1863 - - - - -	28,642	5	6
„ 1864 - - - - -	28,364	13	0

In consequence of this favourable state of the revenue as compared with expenditure the balance in the chest has been increased from 6,907*l.* 6*s.* on the 31st December 1863, to 10,087*l.* 1*s.* on the 31st December 1864.

Comparatively yearly Statements of Revenue and Expenditure

4. The following is the usual Table of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the last five years:—

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1860 - - - -	32,575	8	3	30,370	4	6
1861 - - - -	35,757	7	6	28,897	0	6
1862 - - - -	27,293	18	6	32,175	8	6
1863 - - - -	27,397	15	3	28,642	5	6
1864 - - - -	31,544	8	0	28,364	13	0

Local Revenues.

5. There are no local revenues, and some little time may yet elapse before any are secured, as although there is every disposition on the part of the outlying districts to assume special burthens for purely local objects, the inhabitants of Belize, with whom the representation of the Colony rests, reject any plans which might end in similar application to themselves. Eventually the town with its 5,000 inhabitants must secede from the exclusive control over public affairs throughout the Colony, as although the inconvenience and expense of registration and voting at the capital only may now deter many from taking part in the elections, still increasing numbers and property must continue to gain day by day indirectly, and imperceptibly as well as directly, until the balance of power is properly adjusted between town and country.

Public Debt.

6. The debt of the Colony on the 31st December 1864 was 20,700*l.* of which 19,800*l.* was raised under the Act of April 1863 for the improvement of a small portion of the town of Belize, and 900*l.* under the Act of 1864 for encouraging the introduction of immigrants for general benefit.

As, independent of the benefit which the revenue may be expected to derive from the increased consumption of many articles by immigrants, the employers will have to repay two-thirds of the entire cost of introduction, the Immigration Loan will press lightly on the Colony, but in respect to the South of Belize Loan, the principal and interest of which are protected by an import duty of 1 per cent., the whole will fall on the general revenue, as those for whose exclusive benefit it was raised, and who have indeed been themselves the recipients of the greater part, are not called upon to give any special aid in repayment.

Militia.

7. There is no Militia law, and the difficulty of establishing Volunteer Corps in a colony which at some points is very largely and almost exclusively peopled by refugees, is very great. A most satisfactory commencement, however, has been made at the capital, and the Legislative Assembly has been most liberal in its provision for the maintenance of the Belize Volunteers.

Public Works.

8. I regret my inability to report favourably on the state of the public buildings, many of them being ruinous in the extreme, and altogether unsuited to the purposes to which they are devoted.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Much as the Executive must for years past have desired to apply a remedy, and often as the Legislature has admitted the necessity by its votes, the cause of delay can only be accounted for in the strange and persistent practice of placing large sums on the Appropriation Acts without any provision whatsoever for execution in the ways and means.

Legislation.

9. The 20 Acts passed during the session of 1864 may be classified as follows :—
Four for the Collection and Appropriation of Revenue.
Four for the Improvement of the Administration of Justice.
Three for the Improvement and Protection of Property in Belize.
Three for the Development of the Resources of the Country by Means of Immigration and Roads.
One for the Introduction of the Decimal System into Public and other Accounts.
One for the Amendment of the Constitution.
One for the Removal of certain Restrictions in the Office of Attorney General.
Three for Objects of General Public Benefit

Political Franchise.

10. The Legislative Assembly consists of 21 members, of whom 18 are elected by the voters, and three are nominated by the Government. Members and voters must all be of the full age of 21 years, and must either be born in allegiance to the Queen or be naturalized by law.

The special qualification of a member is property, real or personal, of the value of 400*l.*, and that for a voter his ownership of reality of the value of 7*l.*, or occupation of land or house of the rental of 7*l.* per annum, or the receipt of a salary of 100*l.*

So little is the privilege of voting for members appreciated by the community at large that there are at present but 164 voters on the list, and of these 110 are journeymen, labouring mechanics, or hucksters.

I note with concern the absence of nearly all the names connected with the agricultural and commercial interests of the Colony.

Council and Assembly.

11. In the Legislative Assembly there has been no change of any importance, but the Council Board sustained losses in the appointment of Mr. Berkeley, the Colonial Secretary, to the Lieutenant-Government of St. Vincent, and in the retirement of Mr. Dieseldorff.

The latter vacancy was filled up by the appointment of Mr. Toledo, but the former still exists, in consequence of the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. Cox, having been previously a nominated member of Council.

In the Civil establishment the changes are as follows :—
Mr. Plues, the Registrar and Clerk of Courts, to be Attorney General.
Mr. Leach to be Registrar and Clerk of Courts, vice S. S. Plues.
Mr. Graham to be Treasurer.
Mr. Adolphus, the Provost Marshal, to be Magistrate of the Northern District, vice Mr. Burke, deceased.
Mr. Howell to be Provost Marshal, vice Adolphus.

Population.

12. By the Census of 1861, the population consisted of 13,789 males and 11,846 females, in the following proportion of races :—

English and mixed - - - -	3,967
African and mixed - - - -	4,666
Indian and mixed - - - -	9,015
Spanish and mixed - - - -	5,523
Carib and mixed - - - -	1,952
Other countries - - - -	512
	25,635

There is little doubt that the numbers have been largely added to since 1861, as well by natural increase as the settlement in the northern district of large bodies of Spaniards and Indians from the disturbed districts of Yucatan, but I am unable to report with any

degree of certainty on the subject as no general returns of births and deaths are provided for by law, and the country districts have to a great extent been without magistrates or police.

Ecclesiastical.

13. A Bill passed the Legislature in 1862, providing a salary of 150*l.* per annum towards the maintenance of a clergyman of the Church of England at Corosal, but the Bishop has not been able to fill up the appointment, and but for the voluntary services of the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic missionaries there would be no provision whatsoever for the religious instruction of the mass of the people beyond the limits of Belize.

This is a most melancholy state of affairs, and I am doubtful of the ability of the Executive to alter them for some time to come, as although the old vicious system of considering Belize with its 5,000 inhabitants as only entitled to support from the public funds has been gradually giving way, and has been signally shaken during the late session of the Legislature, still my Bill for the establishment of four Protestant missions at 300*l.* per annum each was thrown out, and an attempt to place two missionaries on the annual estimate at 200*l.* per annum each was unsuccessful.

As regards the town of Belize it is well supplied with ministers of all denominations, viz. two of the Church of England, one of the Free Church of Scotland, two Wesleyan, one Roman Catholic, and one Baptist.

Education.

14. Not only are the public funds for the education of the people applied without any reference to the members forming the respective congregations, but the town by the appropriation of 973*l.* 14*s.* of the annual grant of 1,200*l.* paralyses any efforts which the Board of Education might desire to make in the country districts.

The present system of education was framed when Belize might, with some show of truth, have been considered the whole Colony; and providing as it did for the instruction of the higher grade of society under a master of good attainments, and of the lower classes under instructors adapted to their future occupations, it had some prospect of success.

Now, however, that the plan has proved faulty in practice, the upper school having been abandoned from its close connexion with the other, and the poorer classes still keeping aloof; that the rambling wood-cutters with their families resident in town have given place to settlers in the country; and that the Roman Catholic population has increased beyond all anticipations, very considerable changes appear to me to be necessary. To what extent these should be carried, and how far I may depend on support in carrying them out must yet be considered, but my views are at present in favour—

1st. Of the education of the masses at their own denominational schools in town and country.

2d. Of the distribution of the public funds in proportion to the claims which each persuasion should have on the ground of numbers.

3d. Of the establishment of a grammar school in Belize. The only schools from which returns have been received are as follows:—

	Children.	Government aid. £	*s.*	*d.*
Belize.—Central school	155	630	7	0
„ Infant school	158			
„ Wesleyan do.	142	166	3	0
„ Presbyterian do.	59	73	4	0
„ Roman Catholic do.	86	104	0	0
	600	973	14	0
Country Districts—Wesleyan	72	97	6	0
Country Districts—Roman Catholic	75	67	12	0
	147	164	18	0

Coin and Paper Currency.

15. We have no paper currency, and I have no means of ascertaining the amount of coin in circulation. In consequence of the severe losses which the Treasury had sustained from taking gold coins with holes in them at the original value, and with a view to check the dishonest practice of foreign traders, I was under the necessity of directing the Trea-

BRITISH HONDURAS.

surer in August last to be guarded in the future receipts of all such coins. In other respects the circulating medium is in anything but a satisfactory state, but I see no prospect of a remedy until a bank is established.

Imports and Exports.

16. The Imports and Exports during the past five years are as follows:—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
1860	200,869	315,918
1861	231,744	292,576
1862	211,357	356,389
1863	265,751	390,643
1864	291,144	373,797

During the year 1864 the Imports and Exports may be classed in manner following:—

	Imports from £	Exports to £
United Kingdom	196,372	218,130
Jamaica	1,446	—
United States	81,598	37,209
Spanish Honduras	4,128	55,404
Guatemala	2,104	6,905
Yucatan	5,334	33,682
Matamoras	260	21,864

Agriculture.

17. Although Great Britain has been furnished with logwood and mahogany from the settlement of British Honduras for the last 200 years it is only since its establishment as a Colony and the final removal of all restrictions respecting the cultivation of sugar, cotton, and other articles of tropical growth, that the attention of the inhabitants has been devoted to agricultural pursuits.

Of late years the advance has been most rapid, especially in the North, where labour has become more plentiful from the refugee Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan, and the acreage under cultivation has in consequence attained very considerable proportions, viz.:—

	Acres.
Sugar cane	1,352
Cotton	392
Corn	5,850
Corn and cotton mixed	858
Tobacco	15
Coffee, &c	42
Total	8,510

As during the past year very considerable plantations have been opened up in the South by new settlers, as many other settlers may be expected during the current year, and as the labours of the Chinese are being beneficially applied on the estates in the North, a hopeful future for British Honduras may reasonably be anticipated.

Grants of Land.

18. $5,695 60 have been realized in 1864 from the rents and sales of crown lands; but as many of the leases have expired, and are not likely to be renewed, I do not think it would be safe to estimate the receipts of the Crown Fund for 1865 beyond the sum of $3,000.

Jails and Prisons.

19. The greatest number of prisoners in confinement at any one time during the year 1864 was ninety-one, viz:—

European sailors for insubordination	10
Soldiers under military sentences	18
Spaniards and Indians	35
Creoles	14
Others	14
	91

The Judicial expenses of the Colony have been unnecessarily heavy from the greater prevalence of crime amongst the mixed Spanish and Indian race, the want of proper magisterial surveillance, the smallness of the Police Force, and the absence of a jail at Corosal. As regards magistrates and police suitable arrangements are already in progress, and I have every reason to hope that at the next Session of the House of Assembly provision will be made not only for the erection of a jail but also for the holding of criminal sessions of the Supreme Court at Corosal. BRITISH HONDURAS.

Sanitary.

20. The health of the Colony was remarkably good throughout the entire year as well in Belize as in the country districts; and from the vigour with which many Southern Americans have pushed their agricultural pursuits it may reasonably be inferred that on the whole the climate is more favourable to European constitutions than might be expected. A great deal of this is no doubt owing to the cool and almost cold northerly winds which prevail from November to February, but throughout the year there is not at any time that intensity of heat which prevails in many of the West Indian Colonies, and in the country there is not that importunity on the part of sand-flies and other insects which is often so distressing in town.

General.

21. There is no doubt that the inhabitants are fully alive to the advantages which they possess as well in climate and soil as in commercial position, and although from want of capital and labour these natural resources may for some time to come be only partially developed, there is good ground for hopefulness in the future.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief, Jamaica. (Signed) J. GARDINER AUSTIN.

BAHAMAS.

BAHAMAS.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor RAWSON, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 33.)

SIR, Government House, Nassau, January 20, 1866.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my Report to accompany the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1864, which was forwarded by the last mail.

2. I regret the delay which has occurred in the transmission of this, and of the Blue Book, but I trust that on an examination of the Report the delay will be excused.

3. Having sought in vain, both before and since my arrival in the Colony, for any works which would, separately or collectively, furnish a recent and tolerably comprehensive view of this extensive archipelago, and having heard a similar complaint from many other persons, I have endeavoured to avail myself of the facilities which I possess for preparing a report that would supply the want of such a work, and prove useful for present and future reference.

4. In consequence of the abnormal state of affairs in this island during the last four years, now happily brought to a close, I have been obliged to extend my inquiries to a period antecedent to 1861, in order to ascertain and describe the ordinary condition of the population and commerce of the Colony. This has increased the volume and the labour of preparation of the Report, but it will now furnish a correct and tolerably full delineation of the recent and present condition of the islands, and serve not only as a guide to the legislator, merchant, and intending immigrant, but as a standpoint from which to measure the future progress and development of the resources of the Colony.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) RAWSON W. RAWSON, Governor.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT by GOVERNOR RAWSON, C.B., to accompany the BLUE BOOK for the Year 1864.

1. *Geographical and relative Position.*

1. The Bahamas form a very numerous group of islands, some of which are of considerable size; of cays, or islets, rocks, and reefs, which lie on the east coast of North America, to the north of Cuba and St. Domingo, and which encircle and almost enclose the Gulf of Mexico to the northward of those islands, leaving only three navigable outlets from the gulf in this direction, viz., 1°, the Florida Channel, to the north, running along the coast of the United States, and west of all the Bahama group; 2°, the Providence Channels, passing through the group to the north, and separating the Great and Little Banks; and, 3°, the Old Bahama Channel, passing to the south of the Great Bahama Bank, between it and Cuba.

2. These islands are situated on two great coral banks of unequal size, called the Little Bahama Bank and the Great Bahama Bank, and lie for the most part on the windward edge of those banks, or of the ocean sounds or tongues which pierce them.

3. The Little Bank, the most northerly, is only one-sixth of the other in size. It commences at Matamillas Reef, which is in latitude 27° 34′ north, and longitude 79° 8′ west, and lies opposite the state of Florida, at a distance of 70 miles from its shore. Thence it runs eastward, gradually bending to the southward until it reaches the "Hole in the Wall," at the southern extremity of the island of Abaco, in latitude 25° 51′ north, and longitude 77° 10′ west. The western edge runs almost south, about 33 miles, and then trends eastward to the same point. The breadth of the bank varies from 35 to 60 miles. Its area is about 5,560 square miles, of which the islands occupy about 1,200 square miles.

4. It contains only two islands of considerable size,; Abaco, which, with its numerous cays, extends along the eastern edge of the bank for a distance of about 100 miles from Matamillas Reef to the southernmost point of the bank; and Grand Bahama, which extends along the southern edge, overlapped and sheltered by Abaco. This latter island is divided by a narrow channel into Great and Little Abaco.

5. The Little Bank is separated from the Great Bank by the Providence Channels, which are distinguished as the North-western and North-eastern. It is not more than 45 miles distant from any part of the Great Bank; at the nearest point it is only 18 miles.

6. The N.E. Providence Channel separates it from Eleuthera and the cays on its northern shore, which lie 27 miles to the S.E. of the "Hole in the Wall."

7. From Eleuthera follow, in the same direction, S.E. and then south, a succession of long narrow islands, viz., St. Salvador, or Cat Island, where Columbus first landed, Long Island, Ragged Island and its cays, to the S.E. point of the bank at Cay Verde, and S.W. to Cay St. Domingo, the most southerly point, in latitude 21° 42′ north and longitude 75° 45′ west. Outside the bank, 40 miles east of the south of St. Salvador, lies Watling Island (also by some called St. Salvador, and supposed to have been the first landing place of Columbus), and 24 miles from the N.E. end of Long Island lies Rum Cay. The small island of Conception lies between St. Salvador (Cat Island) and Rum Cay.

8. S.E. of Long Island the chain of islands is continued in the same direction outside of the Great Bahama Bank. They succeed in the following order: Crooked Island, separated from Long Island by a channel of the same name, 25 miles in width; Acklin's Island, separated from Crooked Island by a shallow channel reputed at one time to have been fordable in its narrowest part. These two islands are of considerable size. To the N.E. of Crooked Island lies Samana, or Atwood, Cay; to the east of Acklin's Island, Plana, or French Cays, a cluster of small islets. To the S.E. of them lies Mayaguana, a considerable island. Thence, in the same direction, the Caicos Islands, once attached to the Bahamas, but now, with the Turk Islands, forming a dependency of Jamaica, and separated from Mayaguana by the Caicos Channel, 30 miles in width. At a short distance to the S.E., in latitude 21° 26′ north and longitude 71° 7′ west, lie the Turk Islands, the last of this chain of inhabited islands, which extends about 600 miles, from within 70 miles of the coast of Florida to about 100 miles of the coast of St. Domingo.

9. Three smaller banks of coral and sand, viz., Mouchoir Carré, Silver, and Navidad, separated by channels of 30 to 40 miles in width, extend this chain to the S.E. for a further distance of about 150 miles.

10. From 60 to 70 miles south of Acklin's Island and Mayaguana, nearly in the latitude of the Turk Islands, lie Great and Little Inagua, or Heneagua, the former of which is one of the largest and finest of the Bahama group. They are quite detached from all the other islands, and are about 65 miles north of the north-western extremity of St. Domingo.

11. Parallel to the centre of the above chain lies the island of Exuma, with its extensive chain of cays, lying upon the eastern edge of the Great Bahama Bank, and on the western side of the Exuma Sound, which breaks the continuity of the bank between St. Salvador and Long Island, and runs about 100 miles in a north-westerly direction, with an average width of 40 miles.

12. New Providence, which was the island first settled by Europeans, and of which the chief and only town, Nassau, has always been the seat of government, lies on the northern edge of the bank, 50 miles S.W. of the N.E. extremity of the bank. It is situated at the eastern entrance of a deep sound, called the Tongue of the Ocean, which penetrates the centre of the bank for a distance of 110 miles, with an average width of 25 to 30 miles, and it is approached from the N.E. and N.W. by the two Providence Channels, which, as already stated, separate the Great from the Little Bank.

13. On the western edge of the Tongue of the Ocean, skirting the bank, lies Andros Island, which is by far the largest of the group. It is 95 miles in length, and 38 in its greatest width.

14. To the N.E. of Andros, and forming a crescent, with its arc facing the east, are the Berry Islands, a succession of small cays, with about 40 miles between the horns of the crescent. These islands are only 30 miles from the S.W. shore of Abaco.

15. Thence the bank trends westward to the Gulf of Florida, where, in latitude 26° 8′ north, and longitude 79° 7′ west, it turns, and runs southward to the 23rd parallel. There, at a distance of 25 miles from Cuba, it trends S.E., and runs 200 miles to Cay St. Domingo, already mentioned as the southern extremity of the bank. It is separated from Cuba by the Old Bahama Channel. The only other inhabited islands in this vast expanse of shoal water are the Biminis, which are two small but pretty and fertile cays, about 25 miles south of the western point of the bank. The total area of this bank is about 37,000 square miles, of which the islands occupy about 2,357 square miles.

16. To the westward of the Great Bahama Bank, and separated from it by the Santareen Channel, lies the Cay Sal Bank, enclosing an area of about 1,430 square miles, and lying between latitude 23° 24′ and 24° 10′ north, and between longitude 79° 28′ and 80° 31′ west, Cay Sal, Auguilla, and a few other uninhabited cays are situated on it. The Spanish Government claimed the sovereignty over this bank many years ago, and the question has never yet been settled.

17. The whole of the trade from North America and Europe to the Gulf of Mexico passes by the north of these islands. Steamers bound to the south stem the rapid current of the Florida Channel. Sailing vessels pass between Abaco and Eleuthera, through the Providence Channels, within 40 miles of Nassau, into the Gulf of Florida. All the northern trade, whether using steam or sails, passes with the stream through the Florida Channel.

18. All the trade from North America to Cuba, St. Domingo, Jamaica, the Gulf of Honduras, and the northern coast of South America passes southward to windward of the group, and close to the shore of Inagua. The return trade, and all the European trade from the same countries, passes north, either through the Crooked Island passage or the Mayaguana or Caicos Channels.

19. These islands, therefore, lie in the track of two great streams of trade, and at times scores of vessels pass daily by the "Hole in the Wall" and the south-western point of Inagua.

2. *Number and Size.*

1. The number of these islands and cays, never hitherto counted, appears to be as follows:—

	Islands.	Cays.	Rocks.
1. *Little Bahama Bank.*			
1. Abaco, Great and Little	2	82	208
2. Grand Bahama	1	39	24
Total	3	121	232
2. *Great Bahama Bank.*			
1. Eleuthera	1	29	146
2. St. Salvador	1	9	17
3. Long Island	1	16	94
4. Exuma, Great and Little	2	166	815
5. Ragged Island and Cays, including Jumentos Reef and Columbus Bank	2	50	204

	Islands.	Cays.	Rocks.
6. New Providence	1	19	143
7. Green Cay	—	4	17
8. Andros	3	146	355
9. Berry Islands	1	52	58
10. Biminis, from Great Isaacs to Orange Cays	2	12	83
11. On the south side of the bank	—	2	—
Total	14	505	1,932
3. *Outside the Great Bahama Bank to Windward.*			
1. Conception	1	3	18
2. Watling's Island	1	5	6
3. Rum Cay	1	—	5
4. Crooked Island	1	2	24
5. Fortune Island (Long Cay)	1	—	—
6. Acklin's Island, including Castle Island and Mira por Vos	1	12	49
7. Atwood's Cay	1	—	6
8. French Cays	2	—	1
9. Mayaguana	1	3	4
10. Hog Sties	—	2	—
11. Inagua, Great and Little	2	1	3
Total	12	28	116
4. *Cay Sal Bank*	—	7	107
Grand total	29	661	2,387

Note.—Compiled by Capt. Stuart, of the Lighthouse yacht, from the Admiralty charts and his own observations.

2. Several of these, especially Eleuthera, St. Salvador, Long Island, and Exuma, form long narrow strips from 20 to 70 miles in length, and not averaging more than four miles in breadth. Exuma and its chain of cays extends 100 miles. The average breadth of the two largest islands is only $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The extreme breadth of any part of the above islands is 14 miles.

3. In Eleuthera, at one place called "the Glass Window," the sea in violent north-east gales actually breaks over the island, and stops the communication.

4. The following is an approximate statement of the size of the principal islands, classed according to their area, exclusive of the cays adjoining them.

	Square Miles.	Area. Square Miles.	Extreme Length. Miles.	Extreme Breadth. Miles.	Average Breadth. Miles.
1. Andros	—	1,600	95	38	22
2. Abaco, Great	680	776	70	17	12
„ Little	96		24	5	4
3. Inagua, Great	530	560	34	25	16
„ Little	30		8	7	$3\frac{3}{4}$
4. Grand Bahama	—	430	66	11	7
5. Crooked Island	76	204	19	8	5
6. Acklin Island	120		41	10	4
7. Fortune Island (Long Cay)	8		10	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$
8. Eleuthera	—	164	57	11	4
Spanish Wells	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—
9. St. Salvador	—	160	42	14	4
10. Long Island	—	130	60	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$2\frac{1}{4}$
11. Exuma, Great and Little	—	110	32	7	$2\frac{1}{2}$
12. Mayaguana	—	96	23	6	4
13. New Providence	—	85	$19\frac{3}{8}$	7	5
14. Watling's Island	—	60	13	6	$4\frac{1}{2}$
15. Rum Cay	—	29	$9\frac{1}{2}$	5	3
16. Biminis, North	3	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{3}$
„ South	$5\frac{1}{2}$	—	$3\frac{1}{9}$	$1\frac{2}{3}$	1
17. Ragged Island and Cays	—	5	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$
18. Berry Islands, Great Harbour Cay	—	$4\frac{1}{2}$	6	$1\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$
19. Harbour Island	—	$1\frac{1}{2}$	3	$\frac{3}{5}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Total	—	4,424	—	—	—

5. The total area and the separate areas of several islands differ materially from those hitherto furnished in the annual Blue Books, but they have been carefully calculated and examined by the best available materials in the Surveyor-General's Office, and are as accurate as can be furnished.

3. *Geological Formation.*

1. There can be little doubt that the extensive banks upon which the Bahamas and adjoining groups of islands rest have been formed by the accumulation of sand and detritus poured into the Gulf of Mexico by the Mississipi and other giant rivers, or rent from the surrounding shores, and swept out by the Gulf stream as far as its force would carry them, until met by the trade winds and westerly currents. There, aided by the coral insect, they would naturally accumulate, and form islands and cays, long, narrow, and low, all along the windward edge of the reef, such as those of which the Bahamas Group actually consists.

2. It is remarkable that there are only three of the group which are not on the windward side of the banks, and these exceptional cases may be easily accounted for; viz., Grand Bahama, which is on the southern side of the Little Bahama Bank, and may have been separated by a convulsion of nature from Abaco, which adjoins it closely; New Providence, on the northern side of the Great Bank, which may either have been separated from the neighbouring island of Andros, or have been created by the action of the water at the entrance of the Tongue of the Ocean; and the Biminis, which are mere islets on the N.W. edge of the Great Bank.

3. The islands are, without exceptions, of the same character. They are formed of calcareous rocks, composed of comminuted coral, shells, and various marine deposits, of recent formation, which are hardened into solid masses of compact limestone, more or less stratified, and abounding in fossils of recent and living species. The surface is generally honeycombed, and perforated with innumerable cavities, some of considerable size, and presents indisputable evidence of having been for ages under water. For a few inches in depth the rock is as hard as flint, and emits sparks when struck with steel. Underneath it gradually softens, and in many places furnishes an admirable stone for building, which can be sawn out in blocks of any required size, and which hardens upon exposure to the atmosphere.

4. The coralline formation of the islands is illustrated by the number of salt-water lakes and salinas in their interior, most of which rise and fall with the tides. These yield an abundance of salt of excellent quality.

5. Marl is found on one or more of the islands. Shocks of earthquakes have been felt at Inagua, the most southerly of the group, in 1854, 1859 or 1860, and 1862. The first two corresponded with shocks felt in the neighbouring island of St. Domingo. But although the surface of this island exhibits numerous fissures which might have been caused by volcanic action, there are no indications of their owing their origin to that agent. No trace of any primitive or volcanic rock has been found on any of the islands.

6. With the exception of Andros, the largest, none of the islands possesses any fresh water. But the inhabitants are for the most part abundantly supplied with fresh water by wells, which are sunk to a depth at which the rain-water, permeating the surface, rests upon the salt water which penetrates the coral rock from the sea shore. This is proved by the common occurrence of the fresh water in these wells rising and falling with the tide on the neighbouring shore. If the well be sunk beneath this point, the water becomes brackish by admixture with the sea water. The phenomenon is remarkable, but is well established. In some places, as at Harbour Island, these wells are dug close to the sea shore, and are not many feet in depth.

7. No part of any of the islands exceeds the height of 200 feet. Their ordinary height is much less. The shores of a few present an abrupt face, or cliff, not exceeding 40 feet in height. They are almost universally environed with reefs or shelves of coralline rock, which extend often to a considerable distance, and usually terminate abruptly; and which, causing shoal water around the islands, render them inaccessible to all but small boats, except at particular points. To the same cause is to be attributed the want of good harbours in this extensive group, Nassau being the only one available for vessels drawing more than nine feet of water, with the exception of Great Harbour, Long Island, which will admit vessels drawing 12 feet, but affords little protection to shipping. There is the same absence of open roadsteads with good and safe anchorage.

BAHAMAS.

4. *Soil.*

1. The previous description of the formation of these islands will account for their soil being thin and sparse; in many places appearing only in the honeycombed cavities of the surface; in others, lying collected on the slopes or at the bottom of declivities, but it is abundantly rich, consisting chiefly of vegetable mould and the detritus of the limestone rock; and the porous nature of the rock supplies the vegetation with moisture from below, as well as from the surface.

2. Nothing can exceed the richness of the virgin soil under the shade of the primitive forest. But when deprived of that shelter, exposed to the air and summer rains, and exhausted by repeated crops, taken off without fallow or rotation, and uninvigorated by manure of any kind, it becomes after a while too thin and poor to yield a profitable crop.

3. The northern islands are, for the most part, clothed with pine forests (pinus rigida). These do not extend east or south of New Providence. Andros Island and Abaco are well timbered. The other islands are also covered with a dense clothing of shrubs and trees, presenting an aspect of perpetual verdure.

4. Three different well-marked descriptions of soil exist in the islands. Forest and fruit trees flourish in a rich black soil. The pine apple does not flourish except upon a red, stiff, adhesive soil, supposed to derive its colour from iron. Vegetables thrive upon either of these soils. The cocoa-nut tree and Indian corn prefer the white and sandy soil which usually skirts the shores.

5. The Windward Islands possess a greater abundance of soil, which increases as they lie to the east and south. In Inagua there is an extensive prairie, clothed with luxuriant grass, in which cattle which have escaped from the stalls of the inhabitants rove wild and free.

5. *Climate and Meteorology.*

1. These islands being, for the most part, situated without the northern tropic, and the more southerly islands being situated not much within it, enjoy a mild, equable climate. The latter are removed from the excessive heat of a tropical sun. Frost is unknown in the most northerly. Being of small size and of little height, and exposing their broadside to the prevailing winds, they are generally healthy.

2. In the southern part of the group, between the parallel's of Inagua and Atwood's Cay, the trade winds blow steadily from E.N.E. to S.E. from April to October. In the winter they are interrupted by the strong S.W. and N.W. winds which prevail over the N.W. part of the group, and in summer sometimes by calms.

3. The other portions of the group may be considered to be in the variables; but from May to September easterly winds predominate. In October and November strong north-easters blow, and sometimes last as long as nine days. From December to April the wind blows strong, commencing from S.S.W., increasing in force as it veers to the N.W., and from thence gradually decreasing until it hauls to the north-east.

4. The seasons are well marked. The summer, which is the rainy season, lasts from May to November. The thermometer then ranges from 75° to 85°, rarely higher. The rains are generally followed by cooling breezes from the east. In the winter the thermometer seldom falls below 60° or rises above 80°. Refreshing winds from the north cool the mid-day air, and the mornings and evenings are peculiarly fresh and invigorating.

5. Hurricanes occasionally occur in the group. Twenty-four are recorded between the years 1780 and 1865. But the island of New Providence has not suffered from any since 1813. The usual season for them is from August to October. One only occurred in the last week of July, and one in the early part of November. During those months the islands are exposed to alternations of sultry calms and strong and sometimes violent gales. * (See Appendix No. 2.)

* The Appendices to this Report are not printed.

6. The island of New Providence has been visited with tornadoes, one in 1825 and one in 1850, their course being nearly in the same direction, from south and west to north and east. Within their vortex, which had very narrow limits, neither trees nor buildings could resist their force, and several persons lost their lives.

7. The reputation of New Providence for salubrity and the charms of its climate has been long established, and has annually attracted to Nassau numbers of invalids and visitors during the winter from the United States and British North American provinces. It would offer a suitable home to invalids from more southerly climes, who would not dare to brave the piercing cold of the neighbouring continent.

8. The subjoined Table shows the temperature and prevailing winds at Nassau in each month of the year, and the gradual increase and decrease of the temperature at different

seasons. More detailed Meteorological Tables will be found in the Appendices Nos. 3 and 4, abstracted from the records of the Military Observatory established at Nassau.

MEAN of DAILY OBSERVATIONS on Week-days for 10 Years from 1855 to 1864.

Months.	Thermometer at 9 a.m.			Wind at 9 a.m.			Rain fall on Ground in Month.	Maximum Pressure of Wind.
				The four Chief Points in Order of Prevalence.	No. of Week Days.			Average of Observations taken at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
	Max.	Med.	Min.		Chief Points named.	All other Days.		
							inches.	lbs.
January -	75	70	66	N.E. E. S.E. N.	21	6	2·4	3·7
February -	76	71	66	N.E. E. S.E. S.	18	6	2·4	3·1
March - -	78	72	66	E. S.E. N.E. N.	18	9	4·5	3·2
April - -	81	75	68	N.E. E. S. S.E.	21	5	2·4	2·7
May - -	84	78	71	N.E. S.E. E. S.	21	6	6·9	3·4
June - -	88	81	74	S.E. E. N.E. S.	24	2	6·4	2·5
July - -	88	82	75	E. S.E. S. N.E.	24	3	6·5	1·9
August - -	88	81	75	E. S.E. S. N.E.	24	3	6·7	2·3
September -	86	81	75	E. N.E. S.E. N.	23	3	5·2	2·4
October -	82	77	73	N.E. E. S.E. N.	22	5	7·4	3·1
November -	79	74	70	N.E. E. E. S.E.	22	4	2·8	4·
December -	77	73	69	N.E. E. S.E. N.	21	6	2·4	3·
Average -	82	76	71	——	—	—	4·6	2·8

9. From the above and the Tables in the Appendix it may be gathered :—

1°. *Barometer.*—1. That the mean height of the barometer is exactly 30 inches.

2. That it obtains its greatest height in the three months from December to February, and is lowest in the two months of October and November.

3. That the annual variations were very trifling until 1862, when, apparently, there must have been a change in the instrument or in the mode of observation, because in 1862–64 there is a constant increase in height of the maximum (Col. 3), averaging 0·13, which is to be seen also in the 9 a.m. observations (Col. 1), after allowing for the corrections pointed out in the note.

4. That there was a constant difference in the observations taken in the morning and afternoon, averaging on the whole period a decrease of 0·05 of height in the afternoon.

5. That the difference between the average of maximum and minimum observations in the 10 years has fluctuated between 0·25 and 0·46. It was greatest in 1862 and least in 1859.

6. That the corresponding differences in the several months have fluctuated between 0·20 and 0·48, the greatest being in November and March and the least in July and August.

2°. *Thermometer.*—1. That the four months, June to September, are the hottest, and of nearly equal temperature, viz., 88°.

2. That January, February, and March are the three coldest months, and of nearly equal temperature, viz., 66°.

3. That the greatest maximum heat exceeds the average heat by not more than 12°, and that the greatest minimum falls short of it by 10°. The extreme variation, therefore, is 22°.

3°. *Rainfall.*—1. That the chief yearly rainfall is from May to October, and is heaviest in the last month. During these six months it amounted to 44 inches, and during the remaining six months to 19 inches.

2. That the greatest fall of rain does not correspond with the greatest pressure of wind.

4°. *Wind.*—1. That the highest winds usually prevail in November and January, and the average from October to March inclusive considerably exceeds the average of the remaining six months.

2. That the differences between the observations as to the direction of the wind taken in the morning and the afternoon are not of sufficient importance to disturb the calculations based on those of the earlier hour.

3. That north-easterly and easterly winds are the most prevalent from September to February, during which months they blow during one-half or two-thirds of the whole time. Northerly winds seldom blow except during those months, and then only for three days in a month; in June to August the average is less than a day. Easterly and south-

BAHAMAS. easterly winds prevail chiefly from March to August. South-westers are most prevalent in February and March, to the extent of two or three days in a month; westerly winds from February to April, to the extent only of one to one and a half days in a month, and during the rest of the year of less than a day monthly; north-westers from November to March about two days in a month. Their relative frequency throughout the year is shown in the following statement of the per-centage proportion of days in a year during which they prevailed at 9 a.m.

North	7·2	per cent.
North-east	26·2	,,
East	24·4	,,
South-east	18·6	,,
South	11·	,,
South-west	5·	,,
West	2·3	,,
North-west	5·3	,,
Total	100·	

5° *Cloud.*—1. The density of cloud does not vary much throughout the year, but is rather greater from May to October than during the other six months.

6. *Population.*

Origin.—1. Columbus found an aboriginal Indian population on these islands in 1492. They were drafted away by the Spaniards to work in the mines and pearl fisheries elsewhere, and were exterminated before the English colonized New Providence in 1629. The Spaniards drove them out in 1641, but did not hold the island. It was again taken possession of by the English in 1667, and granted in 1680 (2nd Nov.) by Charles II. to the Duke of Albemarle and five other proprietary Lords, who attempted to settle the islands, but without success, and abandoned the enterprise.

2. In 1703 New Providence was ravaged, and the inhabitants expelled by the Spaniards and French, when it became a refuge for pirates until 1718, when the British Government rooted them out, and established a regular colonial administration. Many families were induced to settle in Nassau, and among them a body of Germans from the Palatinate, whose descendants, it is said, may still be traced in one or more of the out-islands. The population at that time did not exceed 1,000.

3. During the early part of the American war, in 1776, the island was attacked and plundered by an American squadron, but abandoned as untenable; and in 1781 the Spaniards took possession of it. It was recaptured by a small force from South Carolina, and at the peace in 1783 was restored by treaty to the British Crown. In 1787 (19th March) the islands were re-conveyed to the Crown by the inheritors of the original proprietors, who received each a compensation of 2,000*l.*

4. Of the out-islands, the most northern, Abaco and Eleuthera, with their cays, were the first peopled at the commencement of the last century. The Windward Islands, viz., St. Salvador, Long, Watlings', Crooked, Acklin Islands, and Rum Cay, were peopled and brought into a high state of cultivation by loyalist families, who emigrated thither with their slaves from Georgia and South Carolina after the close of the American war. Inagua was not peopled until 1805. Mayaguana is still almost uninhabited. Up to 1808 labour was supplied by cargoes of negroes from the African coast. Slavery existed in the islands until the general emancipation in 1837.

Number.—1. The population at different periods has been as follows:—

Years.	White.		Free Coloured.		Slaves.		Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1810*	1,726	1,630	676	869	4,790	4,527	7,192	8,026	15,218†
1822	2,702	3,220	With white.		5,251	5,019	7,953	8,239	16,192
1826*	2,297	2,291	897	1,362	4,592	4,594	7,786	8,247	16,033
1831	3,668	3,863	With white.		4,727	4,830	8,095	8,693	16,788
1841	2,965	2,993	8,683	8,819	—	—	12,180	12,315	24,495‡
1851*	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,747	13,772	27,519
1861*	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,466	17,821	35,287

* A census was taken in these years. † Exclusive of 900 at Abaco.

‡ In two or three small islands the whites were not distinguished.

2. An abstract of the details of the last two censuses, taken in 1851 and 1861, is furnished in Appendices Nos. 5 and 6.

Distribution.—1. The largest number occupy New Providence, viz., 11,503, out of 35,287, or exactly one-third; and of these upwards of 10,000 live in Nassau and its suburbs. Of these the principal are Grant's Town and Bain's Town, of which the population in 1861 was respectively 2,398 and 1,315. The only other village of any size in the island is Sandilands, at Fox Hill, to the eastward, which, with the adjoining settlements of Dunmore Town and the Creek, contained 817 inhabitants. Carmichael, in the centre of the island, Adelaide, on the south, and Gambier, on the north, contain each a few inhabitants, chiefly Africans by birth.

2. Eleuthera ranks next in order. It contains several villages, and a large agricultural population. The next largest settlements are those of Harbour Island, on the north-east shore of Eleuthera, and Green Turtle Cay, on the east coast of Abaco. The first contained, in 1861, 1,994 inhabitants, the latter 716.

3. These islands or cays serve conveniently as the residence of the population, who are occupied chiefly in fishing, sponging, and wrecking, but their fields are on the adjoining mainland. In Abaco, if not in Eleuthera, the early settlers appear to have taken up their abode in villages on the mainland, and to have abandoned them for the cays on the shore, which were found more convenient for their principal occupations. Other cays off these two islands are occupied in the same manner. The settlements on the mainland are small and widely dispersed. A more detailed description of them will be found in the separate account of each island.

4. Governor's Harbour, in Eleuthera, and Matthew Town, in Inagua, are the only other settlements which deserve special notice. In the other islands the population is generally scattered, or collected in small settlements, often consisting of three or four cottages.

5. The population of the several islands, with the area and comparative density of the former, are shown in the following table:—

——	Population in 1861.	Area in Square Miles.	Population per Square Mile.
New Providence - -	11,503	85	135·3
Eleuthera - - -	5,209	164	31·7
,, Spanish Wells -	331	½	662·
Long Island - - -	2,571	130	19·7
St. Salvador - - -	2,378	160	14·8
Abaco - - - -	2,362	776	3·
Exuma - - - -	2,289	110	20·8
Harbour Island - -	1,994	1½	1,329·
Andros - - - -	1,366	1,600	·8
Inagua - - - -	994	560	1·8
Grand Bahama - -	858	430	2·
Rum Cay - - -	654	29	22·5
Crooked Island - -	627	76	8·2
Acklin Island - - -	517	120	4·3
Watling's Island - -	480	60	8·
Fortune Island (Long Cay)	470	8	59·
Ragged Island - -	272	5	54·4
Biminis - - - -	210	8½	24·7
Berry Islands - - -	202	—	—
Great Harbour Cay - -	—	4½	—
Mayaguana (in 1857, 20 inhabitants) - - -	—	96	·2
Total - -	35,287	4,424	8·

Races.—1. In the larger settlements the white and coloured population are divided in varying proportions. In the smaller settlements the one or the other generally preponderates.

2. Some of the suburbs of Nassau are occupied exclusively by the coloured races. Grant's Town and Bain's Town contained, in 1861, 3,713 inhabitants, almost all of this class. In parts of them a considerable number of native Africans are settled, one or two races congregating in a particular neighbourhood. Seven distinct races are known, viz.,

BAHAMAS.

the Nangoes, a numerous, industrious, and thriving people, the Congoes, Congars, or Nangoebars, with a few Eboes, Mandingoes, Fullahs, and Haussars.

3. A moderate number of discharged soldiers, recruited in Africa, who have wanted the disposition or the means to return to their native country, swell this class of the population.

Employments.—1. The greater proportion of the population is employed in agriculture; some in producing salt; and a large number in fishing, sponging, and wrecking. Many agriculturists keep boats, and go wrecking when an opportunity offers. The building of ships and boats, the former seldom exceeding 100 tons, is carried on to a considerable extent. They are chiefly made of native woods, are very durable, and generally of admirable form. There are no other manufactures, except of ropes, hats, baskets, &c., made of palmetto.

2. In the census returns of 1861 the occupations of the population were classed as follows:—

Officials	145
Professionals	96
Traders and clerks	394
Mechanics and handicraftsmen	1,080
Planters and farmers	2,739
Seamen and fishermen	2,262
Labourers and servants	5,717

3. The maritime population is numerically large in New Providence, but the proportion to other classes is greatest in Harbour Island, Abaco, and Grand Bahama.

Proportion of the Sexes.—1. This has been remarkably equal during the last 50 years, with only a preponderance of females, as might be expected, among the free coloured population during the time of slavery. At the last census in 1861 the numbers of each sex were,—

Males	17,466	35,287.
Females	17,821	

Ages.—1. The large proportion of persons living, at the census of 1861, under 20 years of age, shows favourably, as compared with England and Wales, and with several other of the West India Colonies, and indicates a quick natural growth of the population.

2. The following is abstracted from Appendix No. 7:—

	Proportion of Population under 20 years of Age.
In Bahamas	55·9 per cent.
England and Wales	45·0 „
Antigua	42·1 „
St. Vincent	50·4 „
Grenada	49·3 „
Barbadoes	58·4 „

Births and Deaths.—1. A system of registration, and officers to carry it out, exist throughout the islands. They make annual returns, which, although they may not be sufficiently accurate to justify a comparison of births or deaths with the population, may suffice to show the excess of births over deaths. See Appendix No. 8. Throughout the Colony the births were nearly double the deaths in the last 10 years, viz.,—

1855–64.—Births	12,657
Deaths	6,706

But in the out-islands they greatly exceeded that proportion, viz.,—

Births	9,149
Deaths	3,859

2. The mortality of New Providence is affected by the existence of a considerable sea-port town, frequented by strangers and foreign shipping, which, with the prevalence of yellow fever in 1862 and 1864, has notably changed the proportions. But previously to the American war, and the existence of those epidemics, the proportion was favourable.

	Births.	Deaths.
1855–60	2,099	1,305
1861–64	1,409	1,542
Total	3,508	2,847

3. The annexed abstract of the reported causes of death in 1864 will show the nature of those prevailing in the Bahamas, and the differences between New Providence and the out-islands.

Causes.	Number.			Per-centage Proportion.		
	New Providence.	Out-Islands.	Total.	New Providence.	Out-Islands.	Total.
Fevers :						
Ordinary - - -	67	147	214	13·3	29·7	21·5
Yellow - - -	141	5	146	28·3	1·	14·6
Scarlet, Eruptive, &c. -	15	38	53	3·	7·7	5·3
Diseases of Lungs and Heart -	72	59	131	14·3	12·	13·2
„ Bowels and Liver -	40	33	73	8·	6·7	7·3
Dropsies - - - -	13	13	26	2·6	2·6	2·6
Diseases of Brain and Nerves :						
Apoplexy and Palsy - -	24	6	30	4·8	1·2	3·
Convulsions and Spasms -	38	62	100	7·6	12·6	10·1
Sudden and violent - -	13	28	41	2·6	5·7	4·1
Stillborn - - -	3	7	10	·6	1·4	1·
Childbirth - - -	2	5	7	·4	1·	·7
Other causes - - -	74	91	165	14·7	18·4	16·6
Total - -	502	494	996	100·	100·	100·

4. It will be seen that yellow fever was almost confined to New Providence. Five deaths only occurred elsewhere, viz., in Inagua, in the last quarter of the year. Other fevers have occurred chiefly in Harbour Island, Spanish Wells, and Eleuthera, where in the towns the inhabitants are overcrowded, and do not pay sufficient attention to the cleanliness of their yards and streets. The want of medical attendance probably leads to the excess of mortality from affections of the brain and nerves in the out-islands.

5. The influence of seasons is shown in the following abstract of the causes of death in the several quarters of the year from 1st January 1863 to 30th September 1865. The period is not sufficiently long to afford any positive results, but they may be accepted as tolerably correct.

Causes.	Average Quarterly Number.				Per-centage Proportion.			
	Jan. to March.	April to June.	July to Sept.	Oct. to Dec.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.
Fevers :								
Ordinary - - - -	32	38	63	58	16·6	19·7	23·	25·4
Yellow - - - -	1	5	35	14	·4	2·4	12·7	6·1
Scarlet, Eruptive, &c. -	14	6	12	9	7·3	2·9	4·4	3·7
Diseases of Lungs and Heart -	34	38	55	26	17·8	19·8	20·1	11·5
„ Bowels and Liver -	14	22	26	19	7·3	11·4	9·4	8·5
Dropsies - - - -	7	5	6	7	3·6	2·6	2·1	3·1
Diseases of Brain and Nerves :								
Apoplexy and Palsy - -	6	4	3	6	3·1	2·1	1·1	2·6
Convulsions and Spasms -	24	14	21	27	12·6	7·4	7·5	12·
Sudden and violent - - -	10	10	7	9	5·	5·	2·7	4·1
Stillborn - - - -	2	1	2	1	1·2	·7	·6	·6
Childbirth - - - -	2	3	3	5	1·	1·3	1·2	2·4
Other causes - - - -	45	47	42	46	24·1	24·7	15·2	20·
Total - -	192	192	274	230	100·	100·	100·	100·

6. The inferences to be drawn from this table are that the latter half of the year is much more fatal to the population to the extent of nearly one-third, and that this is owing chiefly to the prevalence of fevers, including yellow fever, which contributed one-third to the excess.

Sanitary State.—1. These islands are, without exception, remarkably healthy. They are free from epidemic diseases. Intermittent fevers, which prevail to so great an extent on the neighbouring continent, are comparatively infrequent here, and usually assume

BAHAMAS.

a mild form. During the last 35 years Nassau has been visited by the cholera but once, viz., in 1852; by small-pox in 1845 and 1860, when it was introduced in both instances from St. Domingo; and by the yellow fever at distant intervals, and attended with very slight mortality, viz., in 1829, 1845, 1853 until 1861–62, when from transient circumstances it assumed a more malignant form, and carried off a greater number of victims, including the first Bishop of the diocese. It repeated its visits in 1863–64.

2. The inhabitants are for the most part a hardy, robust race. They consume little animal food, and live chiefly on Indian and Guinea corn, vegetables, fish and shell fish. Many of the petty cultivators on the Windward Islands, who cling to their small plots, and refuse to seek employment as hired labourers in their own or other islands, are often reduced to much distress when their meagre crops of corn fail them through drought or other causes; and these are in the course of deterioration, both physical and mental, enervated, indifferent to improvement, and bringing up their families in ignorance and sloth.

3. Nassau is usually very healthy and free from disease. In 1862–64, during the height of the blockade running trade, when the town was filled with strangers, the lodging-houses were overcrowded, and the elements of disease were festering in the heart of the city, it is not surprising that the yellow fever, whether introduced by vessels coming from infected ports, or engendered by the unusual condition of the city, should have broken out. But it was confined to strangers and to unacclimated persons, and was not by any means fatal as compared with other places.

4. The Board of Health, a body constituted under a local Act, with large powers for the protection of the health of the Colony, reported that in 1861–62 about 400 persons were attacked, and 95 died in a population numbering, in 1861, 11,503; and that in 1864, out of a population estimated at 15,000, the number of cases was 700, and of deaths 137. Of these, 153 cases, resulting in 45 deaths, were admitted into the Quarantine Hospital from the shipping and lodging-houses.

5. Quarantine is enforced at Nassau and in the out-islands, but chiefly against small-pox. A station with fine and extensive buildings has lately been established on Athol Island, about three miles east of the city. Vaccinators are appointed throughout the islands, and are supplied with lymph by the Board of Health. The number of persons reported to be vaccinated at the census of 1861 was 25,100 out of 35,287.

Immigration and Emigration.—1. There has been no considerable immigration since that of the loyalists from North Carolina and Georgia for a few years after 1783. There has been a gradual emigration of that class, and of the proprietors of slaves; of the former after 1808, of the latter after the abolition of slavery in 1837. The active employment and high wages offered at Nassau during the years 1862–64 consequent upon the blockade running trade with the Southern States of North America during those years led to the migration of a considerable number of labourers from the out-islands. Some of these have returned, many still remain. But as the inducements which brought them here have already ceased, they will probably seek to better themselves elsewhere. The Long Island Cotton Company introduced some labourers, about 75, into that island in 1864.

Religious Belief and Instruction.—1. The Church of England is recognized and endowed as the chief, if not established, Church of the Colony. The islands are divided, and New Providence is sub-divided, into parishes by local enactments. The ministers of the Church of England receive stipends from the Public Treasury. Its edifices for the most part, at least in New Providence, belong to the Government. Authority is given by law to the Bishop over all Church officers. The ecclesiastical laws, ordinances, and canons of England are declared to be in force in the Colony.

2. The islands were within the diocese of Jamaica from 1826 to 1861, and under the superintendence of an Archdeacon. At the latter date they were erected into a separate bishopric, and the first Bishop of Nassau was consecrated in November of that year. The Governor is ordinary. The principal church in Nassau has become the cathedral. Each parish in the city has one or more churches or chapels, and in the out-islands there is at least one church in each parish; some have several, and there are few, if any, of the inhabited islands in which there is not a building appropriated to divine worship in connexion with the Church of England. Some of them are vested in the Bishop.

3. New Providence is divided into the parishes of Christ Church, St. Matthew, and St. Anne, with the chapelries of St. Mary and St. Agnes.

Harbour Island and East Eleuthera	- form the parish of	St. John.
Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera - -	,,	St. Patrick.
St. Salvador (or Cat Island) - -	,,	St. Salvador.

Exuma - - - - -	forms the Parish of	St. Andrew.
Long Island and Ragged Island - -	„	St. Paul.
These two are united under one minister.		
Crooked Island, Acklin's Island, and Long Island - - - -	„	St. David.
Inagua - - - - -	„	St. Philip.
Abaco, in which the Biminis have been included by ecclesiastical authority -	„	St. Peter.
Andros, Grand Bahama, and Berry Islands	„	St. Stephen.
The last two are united under one minister.		
Watling's Island and Rum Cay - -	„	St. Christopher.

4. Stipends are provided by Acts of the Local Legislature for all these parishes except the last. Besides these 13 clergymen, there are 16 paid and nine unpaid catechists throughout the diocese. The former are supported by the Bahama Church Society.

5. The endowment of the bishopric is provided by the Imperial Treasury. On the creation of the see, the office of Archdeacon of Nassau was abolished, and the stipend (1,000*l.* a year) was appropriated to the support of the see. A small allowance for house rent and travelling expenses (145*l.* a year) is made to the Bishop by the Local Legislature.

6. Of other denominations the Wesleyans and Baptists are the most numerous. The former have for a long period had several ministers throughout the northern islands, chiefly Abaco and Eleuthera, with their inhabited cays.

7. The present number of ministers is seven, of whom three serve in four chapels in Nassau. Two ministers, resident at Rock Sound and Governor's Harbour, provide for two circuits in Eleuthera, where they have 11 chapels, viz. at Rock's Sound, Tarpum Bay, Savannah Sound, Pear Cay, Good Hope Estate forming one circuit, and Governor's Harbour, Palmetto Point, James Cistern, Hatchet Bay, St. John's Hill, and Gregory Town (the Cove) forming the second circuit. One minister, resident at Harbour Island, has six chapels, viz., at Harbour Island, Spanish Wells, the Bluff, the Current, Current Island, and the Bogue. The Abaco circuit, whose minister resides at Green Turtle Cay, includes four chapels, viz., at that Cay, Marsh Harbour, Hope Town, and Cherokee Sound. A few members of the church reside at Andros and the Biminis, which are visited by ministers from New Providence.

8. The number of attendants, communicants, and Sunday schools, and scholars in each circuit are returned as follows :—

Circuits.	Attendants.	Communicants or Adult Members.	Sunday Schools.	Scholars therein.
New Providence - - - - -	1,800	979	3	479
Eleuthera, (1st Circuit) - - - -	1,400	716	3	416
Do. (2nd do.) - - - - -	1,200	398	5	328
Harbour Island - - - - -	1,700	679	4	414
Abaco - - - - - - -	1,040	352	5	372
Andros Island - - - - - -	50	19	—	—
Biminis - - - - - -	80	20	1	35
Total - - -	7,270	3,163	21	2,044

9. The Baptists are more widely extended. The London Baptist Missionary Society has two districts, with a single missionary appointed to each. Their central residences are Nassau and Inagua. The number of members in each is reported to be,—

1. New Providence - - - - -	823	
Andros - - - - - -	143	
Grand Bahama - - - - -	148	
Eleuthera - - - - - -	101	
San Salvador - - - - -	397	
Exuma - - - - - -	218	
Ragged Island - - - - -	44	
	——	1,874

2. Inagua	95	
Long Cay	Not stated.	
Rum Cay	153	
Long Island	187	
Watling's Island	34	
Mayaguana	5	
		474
Total		2,348

10. Besides these there is a body of Baptists independent of the above society, who are numerous in Nassau, and have branches in most of the out-islands, viz., St. Salvador, Eleuthera, Exuma, Rum Cay, Watling's Island, Long Island, Crooked Island, Acklin Island, Andros and Current Island, and counting 1,896 members of the congregations and Sunday scholars under one or two head elders at each station.

11. The Church of Scotland has a church and minister, but not a numerous body of members in Nassau. The Church of Rome has no church and few members.

12. The influence of the clergy of all denominations is considerable in New Providence and the out-islands, and has in general been beneficially exerted for the improvement of their flocks and for the maintenance of law and order.

Education.—1. From an early period the Legislature has made provision for maintaining a system of popular education and training upon an unsectarian basis. A Board of Education has existed since 1841. Since 1847 it has been composed exclusively of lay members, belonging either to the Executive Council, or to one of the branches of the Legislature. The system adopted in the schools is that of the British and Foreign School Society.

2. By a recent Act passed in 1864, the Board of Education is required to be composed of the Governor and five members of the Legislature. Provision is made for an Inspector General of Schools; salaries for 29 schools are granted, amounting to 1,920*l.*, and about 650*l.* for other expenses.

3. Further provision for educational purposes was made by Acts of the last Session, raising the total of grants in 1865 to 4,065*l.*, exclusive of 1,300*l.* expended upon the purchase and fitting up of a new central school, and of 800*l.* voted for the erection of two other schoolhouses in Nassau.

4. The number of schools supported or aided by the Government in each island, and the number of scholars attending at the close of 1864, was as follows:—

Districts.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.		
		Male.	Female.	Total.
New Providence (Nassau and suburbs)	5	197	207	504*
Abaco	2	69	36	105
Grand Bahama	1	19	14	33
Harbour Island	1	70	—	70
Spanish Wells	1	20	9	29
Eleuthera	4	141	70	211
St. Salvador	2	94	87	181
Exuma	1	39	38	77
Rum Cay	1	25	19	44
Watling's Island	1	9	6	15
Long Island	1	15	14	29
Crooked Island	1	40	23	63
Ragged Island	1	31	31	62
Inagua	1	39	—	39
Andros	2	54	54	108
Total	25	862	608	1,570

* Including 100 Infants whose sex was not distinguished.

5. Besides the Government schools there are in Nassau a few private schools, several dame schools, and many Sunday schools connected with the several churches. There is no college or normal school. Both are much required. In the out-islands there are a few private schools, and most of the churches have Sunday schools attached to them.

Among the teachers are some zealous and sufficiently competent persons; and among the schools a few which are efficiently conducted; but in general the qualifications of the former are but meagre. Few, if any, are acquainted with the recent improvements in the methods of instruction and management, and the amount of education in its true sense, and of instruction in its more limited sense, acquired in these schools falls short of the intention and liberal provisions of the Legislature.

6. The appointment of a new inspector, after a considerable interval, is likely to produce a rapid change, and the people of the out-islands are beginning to display a greater interest in their schools, and a desire that their children should receive the benefit of them. School fees are required, but have not hitherto been levied in the majority of schools.

Libraries, Newspapers, and Publications.—1. Nassau possesses a large and well-stocked Public Library, which was established by a local Act in 1847. Harbour Island, Inagua, and others of the out-islands also have libraries and reading-rooms.

2. The Legislature pays the salary of a librarian in that of Nassau, and contributes to the support of three of the others. There are three printing presses in Nassau; none elsewhere in the Colony. Three newspapers are published there twice a week. They seldom discuss politics. No books and few pamphlets have been printed in the Colony.

3. A well-digested almanac was published for several years from 1848 to 1862, but it dropped from want of support in the latter year.

Crime.—1. The small variation in the amount of crime, as shown in the committals to prison under sentences of the Police Magistrates and General Court, during the five years 1855–59, its sudden increase in 1860–61 before the effects of the American war commenced to be felt in Nassau, and the injurious effects of the blockade-running business in 1862–64, are seen in the following table:—

ADMITTED INTO PRISON FROM POLICE COURT.

Years.	Males.	Females.
1855 - -	292	84
1856 - -	290	106
1857 - -	283	168
1858 - -	233	124
1859 - -	283	158
1860 - -	370	203
1861 - -	375	189
1862 - -	523	223
1863 - -	689	189
1864 - -	891	221
Averages of—		
1855–59 - -	276	128
1860–61 - -	372	196
1862–64 - -	701	214

2. The nature of the offences with which the persons were charged before the Police Magistrates in Nassau during the past five years is shown in Appendix No. 9. The following is an abstract:—

NO. OF PERSONS CHARGED.

—	1860.		1861.		1862.		1863.		1864.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1. Offences against the person -	82	22	57	17	87	24	123	20	181	28
2. Offences against property with violence - - -	4	—	1	—	—	—	9	—	4	—
3. Offences against property without violence - -	98	13	81	30	135	30	165	26	269	22
4. Offences, malicious, against property - - -	—	—	1	—	3	—	2	—	2	—
5. Forgery, and offences against the currency - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Other offences - - -	186	168	235	142	298	169	390	143	435	171
Total - -	370	203	375	189	523	223	689	189	891	221

BAHAMAS.

3. The number of persons tried in the General Court, distinguishing their offences, is shown in Appendix No. 10. The following is an abstract :—

Years.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Total Tried.
1855 - -	16	6	22
1856 - -	21	2	23
1857 - -	20	6	26
1858 - -	22	13	35
1859 - -	20	4	24
1860 - -	23	14	37
1861 - -	13	4	17
1862 - -	22	12	34
1863 - -	59	23	82
1864 - -	75	24	99

4. The nature of the offences for which they were tried during the same period was :—

—	1855–61.		1862–64.	
	Total.	Average.	Total.	Average.
1. Offences against the person -	63	9	73	24
2. Offences against property with violence - - -	19	3	9	3
3. Offences against property without violence - - -	81	12	82	27
4. Offences, malicious, against property - - - -	8	1	5	2
5. Forgery, and offences against the currency - - -	6	1	3	1
6. Other offences - - -	7	1	43	14
Total - -	184	27	215	71

5. The Returns do not afford the means of separating prisoners committed for trial by magistrates in the out-islands from those committed in Nassau, but the proportion of the former is small.

6. The average number of prisoners under confinement in the public gaol at Nassau, in the years 1859 to 1864, with some description of the offenders and their sentences, is shown in the following abstracts. The admission of a decimal fraction was necessary in order to show that some one or more individuals of a class had been imprisoned, although not for a sufficient period to form an unit in the annual average.

—	1859.		1860.		1861.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Sentenced by General Court :—						
With hard labour - -	21·5	5·6	21·6	6·4	19·3	2·6
Without hard labour - -	·7	·3	1·3	·6	3·	·6
Sentenced by Police Court :—						
With hard labour - -	33·	19·	37·5	23·3	33·2	23·
Without hard labour - -	7·5	2·7	7·	2·	16.	5·
For want of security - -	·5	—	·2	—	1·2	·9
Debtors - - - -	1·5	·1	1·	—	·7	—
For trial and examination - -	3·6	1·3	11·1	1·4	5·4	1·3
Military Courts-martial - -	6·7	—	4·7	—	6·5	·2
Total - -	75·2	28·7	84·7	33·2	86·5	32·5
Daily average - -	47·	15·	52·	15·6	49·5	15·

	1862.		1863.		1864.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Sentenced by General Court :—						
Foreign seamen :						
Penal servitude - -	1·	—	3·6	—	4·2	—
With hard labour - -	1·6	—	·1	—	1·	—
Without hard labour - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Natives :						
Penal servitude - -	1·5	—	10·7	·6	23·7	1·
With hard labour - -	7·	2·	5·1	2·6	7·6	1·4
Without hard labour - -	1·	—	1·7	1·	5·3	·3
Sentenced by Police Court :—						
Foreign seamen :						
With hard labour - -	7·5	—	9·9	—	14·9	—
Without hard labour - -	4·5	—	2·6	—	12·1	—
For want of security - -	—	—	·3	—	·6	—
Natives :						
With hard labour - -	41·5	21·6	57·1	17·1	63·7	24·7
Without hard labour - -	13·7	5·1	6·	2·6	16·7	2·2
For want of security - -	1·1	·1	1·3	1·	2·3	·5
For trial and examination :—						
Foreign seamen - -	1·5	—	3·7	—	4·3	—
Natives - - -	6·9	2·1	14·	2·1	12·1	2·
Debtors :						
Foreign - - -	·2	—	·2	—	·6	—
Natives - - -	·2	—	1·1	—	·9	—
Soldiers :						
Civil offences - - -	1·	—	2·1	—	3·9	—
Military offences - -	12·	—	24·3	—	17·	—
Total - -	102·9	30·3	144·1	27·	191·2	31·7
Daily average - -	49·4	11·4	78·7	10·7	111·1	13·1

7. From this latter statement it appears that foreign seamen averaged on the three years 25 per cent., or one-fourth of the total number imprisoned, and increased from 22 per cent. in the first, to 26 per cent. in the last, year of the period. Soldiers, too, have formed a large per-centage in all the three years, confined chiefly for military offences.

Pauperism.—No poor's rate is levied in the islands, but an asylum has been for a long period established in Nassau, and a sum has been annually voted for the reception and maintenance of aged and infirm persons. This institution has grown up into a hospital and asylum for lunatics and lepers. But it continues to receive paupers, and the Commissioners are charged with the administration of relief to paupers in the out-islands. The number receiving relief is not large, but the number who are dependent in a great measure upon friends and neighbours, and who barely find a subsistence, is not inconsiderable.

7. *Government.*

Constitution.—1. The Government of the Bahamas resembles that of most of the West Indian Islands, and is modelled after that of England. Its constitution is not based upon any charter, but originated in successive Royal Commissions to the Governors, empowering them to convoke a General Assembly.

2. The present Legislature consists of the Governor, appointed by the Crown, who is also commander-in-chief, vice-admiral, and ordinary; he was also chancellor until 1st December 1865; a legislative council, consisting of nine members, also appointed by the Crown; and a house of assembly, of 28 members, elected by the people. The Legislature meets once a year, enacts all laws and regulates the finances of the Colony. The Governor is assisted by an executive council of nine members.

BAHAMAS.

3. The Colony is divided into 13 electoral districts, viz.:—

			Registered Electors in 1864.
New Providence:			
City of Nassau	returning	4 members	518
Eastern District	„	2 „	885
Western District	„	2 „	439
Abaco	„	3 „	467
Harbour Island and West Eleuthera	„	3 „	441
Eleuthera, East	„	3 „	486
Exuma	„	3 „	561
St. Salvador	„	1 „	407
Crooked Island, including Acklin and Fortune Islands	„	1 „	250
Rum Cay, including Watling's Island	„	1 „	236
Long Island, including Ragged Island	„	2 „	528
Inagua, including Mayaguana	„	1 „	190
Andros, including Grand Bahama and Berry Islands	„	2 „	541
	Total	28 „	5,949

4. The number who voted at the last general election in 1861 was 4,351.

5. The qualification of a member is a clear estate, real or personal, of 500*l.* sterling.

6. The qualifications of electors are full age, and a residence of 12 months, during six of which they must have been a freeholder or housekeeper, or, if resident six months, they must have paid duties to the amount of 50*l.* old currency, or 26*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* sterling.

Local Institutions.—1. There are no municipalities, but provision is made for their constitution by an Act of 1837. There is a board of public works created by a local Act, and composed of members of the Executive Council. The Road Committees of the out-islands have by an Act of this year (1865) been converted into local boards of works. A Board of Health, appointed by the Governor, is charged with the surveillance of the health of the whole Colony.

2. The Courts of Law consist of a general court, presided by a chief justice, with an assistant judge, who is also judge of the Court of Common Pleas. The powers, practice, and jurisdiction of the former resemble, and are nearly co-extensive with, those of the several separate courts of law in England. In the present year (1865) the powers of chancellor have been transferred from the Governor to the General Court. The common law is the foundation of the jurisprudence of the Colony, but the amendments introduced from time to time in England have been generally adopted without delay. Grand juries were abolished in 1848, and the Attorney-General was vested with the powers of public prosecutor. At the same time it was provided that in all civil cases, and in all but capital criminal cases, the verdict of two-thirds of the petty jury might be taken, and that in capital cases two-thirds might acquit but not convict.

3. The Colony is divided into five magisterial districts, consisting of:—

1. New Providence.
2. Harbour Island, including Eleuthera and St. Salvador.
3. Abaco, including Grand Bahama, the Biminis, and Berry Islands.
4. Long Island, including Exuma, Rum Cay, Watling's Island, and Ragged Island.
5. Inagua, including Crooked Island, Fortune Island (Long Cay), Acklin Island, and Mayaguana.

6. In the first four the stipendiary magistrate is called the "Police Magistrate," in the fifth "Resident Justice." Besides these inferior courts there are unpaid justices of the peace throughout the islands, who have the same powers at common law as justices have in England. They have also in the out-islands a petty debt jurisdiction to the extent of 10*l.*

7. A police has been created for New Providence and the out-islands under the charge of an inspector, who is stationed in Nassau.

Legislation of 1864.—1. The principal Acts passed in 1864 were:—

1. To consolidate the Laws relating to Popular Education, cap. 35.
2. To consolidate the Laws relating to the Stipendiary Police Force of the Colony, cap. 20.
3. To continue the "Licensed Vessels" (Wrecking) Act for Ten Years, cap. 24.

4. To make further Provision for the Receiver General's Office, cap. 27.
5. The same for the Post Office, cap. 36.
6. To increase temporarily the Salaries of the Civil Servants, cap. 12.
7. To increase the Salary of the Governor for a Term of Six Years, cap. 13.
8. To impose certain additional Tonnage Dues, cap. 17.
9. To give Force to Contracts between Masters and Servants made out of the Colony, cap. 10.
10. To make further Provision for erecting a new Gaol in Nassau, cap. 15.
12. To provide a new Slaughterhouse in Nassau, cap. 28.
13. To provide a Maintenance for Wives deserted by their Husbands, cap. 3.
14. To provide for sick and destitute Seamen and Strangers in Nassau, cap. 2.

8.—*Land.*

Area.—1. Of the total area, amounting to 2,831,680 acres, only 300,691 acres have been granted. In the return of surveys from the several islands two-thirds of the extent is estimated as fit for cultivation. Of the several islands, exclusive of Andros, Inagua, and Mayaguana, and comprising an area of 1,387,840 acres, 82,893 acres, or about 7 per cent., are estimated to be water.

Terms of Grant and Sale.—1. Previously to 1833 the Crown lands were granted on quit rent to individuals, with certain reservations and upon certain conditions, the nonfulfilment of which entailed forfeiture. Before 1802 the quit rent was 2*s.* per 100 acres, or less than one farthing an acre; after that date one penny per acre.

2. In 1833 Her Majesty's Government directed that Crown lands should only be disposed of by public sale, with an upset price, the purchasers defraying all expenses of survey, grant, &c. About that time 95,718 acres in different islands were escheated to the Crown for nonpayment of quit rents, viz.:—

	Acres.
In St. Salvador (Cat Island)	16,726
„ Abaco	15,186
„ Andros	14,908
„ Crooked Island	12,888
„ Long Island	8,518
„ Eleuthera	7,732
„ Inagua	7,180
„ Exuma	4,320
„ Watling's Island	3,805
„ Grand Bahama	1,668
„ New Providence	1,072
„ Rum Cay	none
„ other small islands and cays	1,715
Total	95,718

3. This table furnishes an indication of the islands in which the cultivation of the soil had received the greatest check by either the destitution or departure of the original proprietors.

4. The upset price fixed in 1833 was 2*s.* 1*d.* (half a dollar) an acre. In 1838 it was raised to 20*s.*; as this was found too high it was reduced in Nov. 1839 to 2 and 2½ dollars (8*s.* 4*d.* to 10*s.* 5*d.*) an acre, according to size. In 1843 it was reduced to 6*s.*, and in 1857 raised to 10*s.* an acre, at which latter rate it now remains.

Division.—1. Before 1833 grants of considerable extent were made. Each head of a family was entitled to receive 40 acres, and for every other member of his family, adult or infant, slave or free, 20 additional acres. Some of these large grants remain undivided. None of them are cultivated or depastured, even to a moderate extent. Since 1833 the system of sale by auction and the establishment of an upset price, of which a moiety had to be paid down, checked the demand for large grants. The majority of grants are now of 20 to 50 acres. From 1844 to 1864 there appear to have been only four applications for grants of more than 100 acres, and one of 1,000 acres, the latter being of forest land in Andros.

2. Up to September 1864 the mode of disposal was as follows:—Upon an applicant exhibiting to the surveyor-general a receipt of the cashier of the Public Bank for a moiety of the upset price, or for the whole in the case of town lands, the applications were recorded, and submitted to the Governor for approval. When there were a sufficient number of approved applications the lands were advertised, and sold by auction to the highest bidder. The purchasers generally took possession before survey. When the

BAHAMAS.

number of lots sold upon one island could be surveyed without a disproportionate charge for each survey, a deputy surveyor was authorized to perform the work. Upon the payment of the balance of the purchase money the grant was made, the money was drawn from the bank, and the surplus, after payment of expenses, was paid into the treasury. Since September last all sums received on account of land purchased have been paid direct to the treasury. In 1836 a land board was created for the purpose of laying out and creating settlements, and certain lands were vested in it, but in 1839 the board surrendered the lands and ceased its operations.

3. The survey department is not efficient. The surveyor-general is also civil engineer and inspector of lighthouses. The surveys are prepared by deputies; of these there are 12, but several do not practise, and none of them occupy themselves exclusively with surveying. New Providence and some of the islands have been surveyed, others only partially. An excellent maritime survey of the group has been completed by the Admiralty, with the exception of the northern portion of the Little Bahama Bank.

4. A Deeds Registry Office exists, in which all grants and transfers are recorded. The registry of the latter is not compulsory, but it is generally practised, as priority of registry gives a preferential title.

9.—*Agriculture.*

1. In a country in which the plough and the sickle are almost unknown, it can scarcely be said that agriculture exists. With the exception of the pine-apple, which has since the last century been grown in fields of large size, and to a considerable extent, in Eleuthera, St. Salvador, and other of the Windward islands, and of cotton, the cultivation of which has been resumed to a limited extent in Long Island and some of the neighbouring islands, it cannot be said that any production of the soil is cultivated in the Bahamas. Indian corn, Guinea corn, pumpkins, eddoes, and other vegetables, the food of the people, are planted, but generally without system, manure, or other preparation of the ground, and left to chance. In seasons of drought the crops fail to a great extent. Irrigation cannot be easily practised where there are no running streams. The inhabitants have not yet learned to supply the deficiency by storing the periodical rains in natural or artificial dams or tanks.

2. Groves of orange trees and cocoa-nut trees have been planted in New Providence, Eleuthera, and other of the northern islands. Fruit trees of various kinds are crowded around the dwellings of the cottagers, growing luxuriantly, but planted without order, unselected, unpruned, and unimproved, often finding a place and nourishment for their roots in crannies and fissures of the rocks, into which it would appear impossible for them to penetrate.

3. Between 1783 and 1810 cotton was cultivated to a considerable extent. At the latter date it began to dwindle, and it ceased altogether after the emancipation of the slaves. Sugar has also been made, and tobacco and coffee grown, on some of the islands, but the cultivation of these crops ceased with the exhaustion of the virgin soil on the fields first cleared, and with the loss of labour by the extinction of slavery.

4. The ease with which land was procured up to 1833 by grants upon quit rents, which were not collected and allowed to fall into arrear, enabled proprietors to clear fresh land whenever that under cultivation began to fail, and the great fertility of the virgin soil compensated for the cost of clearing; there was therefore no inducement to restore or to improve the soil by artificial means, and although the facilities for breaking up fresh land no longer exist, growers have not yet learned to employ the guano, with which many of the islets abound, or the sea-weed which is thrown up in abundance upon many of the shores. As the land best adapted for the pine-apple is limited in extent, the growers of that plant in some places let their lands lie fallow for a number of years, and then resume their cultivation of them. A rotation of crops is unknown. Agricultural implements for the economy of time and labour are unknown.

5. The breeding and feeding of horned cattle, horses, and sheep was formerly carried on to a considerable extent in some of the islands, viz., Long Island, Exuma, St. Salvador, Rum Cay, Watling's Island, and Crooked Island, and the market of Nassau was well supplied with colonial meat, but this has ceased to be the case. Cattle for slaughtering are imported from Cuba and Florida. Mutton is very scarce in the Nassau market. Sheep are sometimes imported from Nova Scotia. Pork is the only animal food of which the supply does not fail, and the quality is tolerably good. The decrease in the rearing of cattle and sheep is attributed in a great measure to the wants of fences and protection, which led to the destruction of the latter by dogs, and of the former by persons on whose grounds they trespassed, or by their owners, to avoid the annoyances to which their frequent trespasses gave rise.

10.—*Productions.*

The Bahamas yield neither metals nor minerals, except salt.

Guano is found in considerable quantities on several of the cays, chiefly on those to the S.E. of the group. It has not been used in the Colony, but exported to the United States, where it finds a ready market. It contains but a small proportion of ammonia, and consists chiefly of phosphates of lime, and is esteemed as a valuable manure. The ordinary price is about $15=3l.$ per ton. The exportations in the last six years have been of the value of 4,338*l.*, estimated at about 1*l.* per ton, of which 2,394*l.* was confined to the years 1859–61, and 1,944*l.* to the year 1864.

Salt.—1. This has been an article of production and exportation for a long period; it is mentioned as such in the American atlas of 1782, though probably at that time the principal quantity came from Turks Islands, now separated from the Bahamas. Salt ponds of various sizes exist on most of the islands and on many cays; those which have been worked of late years to any extent are on Long Island, Long Cay, Exuma and its cays, Rum Cay, and Inagua. Until a recent period these ponds were the property of the Crown, and they were leased out in blocks of various sizes. In 1857 a plan was introduced of converting the leasehold into freehold tenure, but few persons availed themselves of the opportunity. The price of salt has not since that period encouraged persons to invest capital in the purchase and improvement of ponds.

2. The following table of lessees, all of whom are in arrear for several years, and most of whom have probably abstained from working during a considerable portion of the period, will show the extent to which the ponds in the above-named islands have been leased, if not worked, and the comparative size of the holdings in each island.

—	No. of Lessees.	Total Rent.	Average Rent of each Lessee.
		£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Inagua - -	43	420 16 5	9 18 6
Rum Cay - -	77	256 12 3	3 8 7
Exuma and cays -	15	91 14 11	6 2 4
Long Cay -	26	54 14 6	2 2 1
Long Island -	9	22 8 9	2 9 10
Total -	170	846 6 10	4 19 7

3. A pond at Rose Island, near Nassau, has been worked, and there is a valuable pond at Cay Sal, to the S.W. of the group. A company was formed in 1849 to work the pond in Inagua; it did not succeed, in consequence, it is alleged, of a want of economy with system of management. Another company has been formed and incorporated by an Act of last session (1865), which it is hoped will succeed better. They propose to construct a railway from the pond to the shipping place, and a jetty at the latter place.

4. The quantities exported during the last 10 years, and the total and average valuation per bushel have been—

Years.	Quantities.	Total Value.	Average Value per Bushel.
	Bushels.	£	*s.* *d.* cents.
1855	399,574	20,806	1 0·5=26
1856	205,038	9,058	10·6=22
1857	361,933	8,981	5·9=12
1858	273,901	5,510	4·8= 9½
1859	350,260	6,162	4·3= 8½
1860	226,584	3,753	3·9= 8
1861	421,522	7,887	4·2= 8½
1862	355,095	6,179	4·2= 8½
1863	321,908	6,058	4·2= 8½
1864	646,575	12,718	4·7= 9½
Total -	3,562,390	87,112	—
Average	356,239	8,711	5·8=11½

BAHAMAS

5. Of this quantity the United States have taken 2,416,308 bushels, equal to 68 per cent., or rather more than two-thirds.

6. The proportion shipped from the several islands is sufficiently shown in the following statement of the quantities exported in 1855 and 1864. The countries to which shipments were made in the latter year are shown in Appendix No. 11.

	1855.	1864.
	Bushels.	Bushels.
Inagua - -	257,208	322,275
Rum Cay - -	60,312	61,961
New Providence* -	47,040	—
Ragged Island -	27,514	163,463
Harbour Island* -	3,500	10,700
Crooked Island -	2,000	33,935
Eleuthera* -	2,000	—
Abaco* - -	—	19,395
Long Island -	—	34,846
Total -	399,574	646,575

7. The islands marked with an asterisk do not (usually) produce salt; the exportations, therefore, from them were produce of other islands. Inagua in these two years shipped 55 per cent. of the whole quantity.

8. The price of salt varies with the United States market, but there is a wide difference between those prices and the selling price in the Bahamas. The former fluctuated or rather advanced as follows:—

In 1845 to 1850 - - -	16 to 25 cents per bushel.
In 1855 - - - -	55 to 65 „
In 1859 - - - -	17 to 18 „
In 1861 - - - -	16 to 21 „
In 1862 - - - -	25 to 30 „
In 1863 - - - -	30 to 50 „
In 1864 - - - -	45 to 57 „
In 1865 - - - -	35 to 70 „

9. During the same period the prices prevailing in the Bahamas rose from 5 cents in 1845 as high as 35 cents. In 1858–63 it was from 8 to 9 cents, and in 1864–5 from 9 to 11 cents, averaging 10 cents. It is stated that this price leaves a small margin of profit.

Vegetable Productions.—1. The native vegetable productions are chiefly those of a tropical region, but many of those belonging to a higher latitude have been introduced, and the climate will admit of all such being cultivated, at least in the northern islands of the group, which do not require winter frosts to bring them to maturity.

Timber.—1. The native forests abound with valuable timber. The pitch pine covers the Islands of Abaco, Grand Bahama, Andros, and New Providence. It has not yet been cut down for exportation. It is used to a certain extent within the Colony, but the cheapness of timber from the neighbouring continent and the hardness of its grain have combined to check the use of it. The great rise in the price of turpentine and rosin during the recent civil war in the United States has led to the creation of four or five establishments for the manufacture of these articles in Abaco and Andros. A saw mill has also been erected in the latter island. The proprietors of these establishments are not sanguine that they will be able to compete with the American producer under ordinary circumstances.

2. The other principal trees of value, and the size which they as well as the pine attain in the Colony, are as follows:—

Pitch pine - -	to square, 12 in.; length, 30 feet.
Madeira (mahogany) -	„ 8 to 10 in. „ 14 „
Horseflesh („) -	„ 7 „ 9 „ 14 „

Ship knees of the last two kinds, 10 in. square and five feet on the short arm.

Olive	- -	to square,	8 or 10 in.	; length,	10 feet.
Cassava	- -	„	6 or 8 „	„	10 „
Mastic	- -	„	10 „	„	12 „
Fustic	- -	„	10 „	„	20 „
Cedar	- -	„	9 „	„	15 „
Button	- -	„	9 „	„	12 „
Torch (white and black)		„	5 „	„	9 „
Satin	- -	„	8 „	„	6 „
Lignum vitæ	-	„	6 „	„	4 „

Logwood
Ebony, crab wood } of small size and inferior quality.
„ black wood
Brazillette of good size and quality.
Poison wood, used for pump boxes.
Stopper, small, but excellent for piling in water.

3. Of trees yielding barks of commercial value the Cascarilla (Croton Cascarilla) and Cinnamon (Canella Alba) are the only two deserving of notice. The candle-berry Myrtle (Myrica unifera), producing vegetable wax, is found, and thrives, in the Colony.

4. The value of native woods and bark exported during the last ten years has been:—

Value of Exports.

Years.	Woods.	Bark.
	£	£
1855 - -	1,023	208
1856 - -	630	135
1857 - -	360	1,423
1858 - -	642	336
1859 - -	2,183	1,633
1860 - -	1,395	883
1861 - -	1,241	800
1862 - -	1,365	1,179
1863 - -	485	530
1864 - -	2,106	704

Fruit Trees.—1. The soil and climate of the Bahamas are admirably adapted for all tropical and semi-tropical fruits. The following species are indigenous:—

Achras - -	Sapota - -	Sappadilla.
Anacardium - -	Occidentale - -	Cashew.
Ananassa - -	Sativa - -	Pine-apple.
Anona - -	Squamosa - -	Sweet sop.
„ - -	Muricata - -	Sour sop.
Carica - -	Papaya - -	Papaw.
Citrus - -	Vulgaris - -	Sour orange.
„ - -	Limonum - -	Lemon.
Chrysophyllum -	Caivito - -	Star apple.
Chrysobalanus -	Icaro - -	Cocoa plum.
Cocos - -	Uncifera - -	Cocoa nut.
Coccoloba - -	Uvifera - -	Sea-side grape.
Cucumis - -	Vitrullus - -	Water melon.
Mammea - -	Americana - -	Mammee.
Musa - -	Sapientum - -	Plantain.
„ - -	Paradisaica - -	Banana.
Passiflora - -	Fœtida - -	Love in a mist.
Psidium - -	Pomiferum - -	Guava.
Spondias - -	Lutea - -	Spanish hog plum.
„ - -	Mombiu - -	Hog plum.
„ - -	Myrobalanon -	Scarlet hog plum.
Tamarindus - -	Occidentalis - -	Tamarind.
Vitis - -	Vinifera - -	Wild grape.

BAHAMAS.

2. The following species have been introduced at different periods :—

Anona	Reticulata	Jamaica (Custard) apple.
Arachis	Hypogœa	Ground nut.
Artocarpus	Incisa	Bread fruit.
Blighia	Sapida	Ackee.
Citrus	Medica	Citron.
,,	Aurantium	Orange.
,,	Bigaradia	Do. mandarin.
,,	Decumana	Shaddock.
,,	Nobilis	Do.
,,	Lima	Lime.
Eugenia	Jambos	Rose apple.
Ficus	Carica	Fig.
Mangifera	Medica	Mango.
Persea	Gratissima	Avocado pear.
Punica	Granata	Pomegranate.
Phœnix	Dactylifera	Date.
Momordica	Balsamina	Balsam apple.
Morus	Multicaulis	Mulberry.
Ternimalia	Latifolia	Broad leaf (almond).
Vitis	Vinifera	Grape.
Zizyphus	-	Jujube.

3. Of the above species, oranges, grape fruit, and shaddocks have been cultivated for exportation, chiefly to the United States. Oranges form one of the few staple exports of the Colony. They are shipped from the islands of New Providence, Abaco, Harbour Island and Eleuthera. The extent of the shipments of enumerated fruit, other than pine apples, in the years 1855 and 1864 is shewn in the following table :—

1855.

Description.	Nassau, N. P.		Abaco.		Harbour Island.		Eleuthera.		Total.	
	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.
		£		£		£		£		£
Oranges, to United States, Mil.	959	1,525	125	219	243	422	41	98	1,368	2,264
Grape fruit, to Great Britain, No.	48,193	140	—	—	—	—	—	—	95,203	200
,, ,, United States, ,,	47,010	60	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Shaddock, to Great Britain, ,,	2,714	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,758	51
,, ,, United States, ,,	44	1	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Lemons and Limes - Brls.	129	63	—	—	96	46	27	8	252	117
Cocoa nuts - - No.	—	—	—	—	3,000	6	—	—	3,000	6
Sappadillas - - ,,	—	—	—	—	10,000	10	—	—	10,000	10
Melons - - - ,,	—	—	—	—	6,700	120	—	—	6,700	120
Bananas - - Bunches	961	55	—	—	5,500	257	687	22	7,148	334
Tamarinds - - Brls.	—	—	—	—	10	2	—	—	10	2
Totals - -	—	1,894	—	219	—	863	—	128	—	3,104

1864.

Description.	Nassau, N. P.		Abaco.		Harbour Island.		Eleuthera.		Total.	
	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.
		£		£		£		£ s.		£ s.
Oranges, to Great Britain, Mil.	8	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,765	2,267 0
,, ,, United States, ,,	370	473	—	—	1,137	1,467	250	313 0		
Grape fruit, do. No.	7,000	5	—	—	2,400	3	—	—	9,400	8 0
Shaddocks (none exported).										
Lemons and Limes to United States - Brls.	—	—	—	—	56	24	1	0 6	57	24 6
Cocoa nuts, to United States, No.	1,500	5	—	—	58,400	199	—	—	59,900	204 0
Sappadillas, do. ,,	—	—	—	—	3,000	3	—	—	3,000	3 0
Melons, do. ,,	300	6	—	—	600	10	50	0 10	950	16 10
Bananas, do. Bunches	200	10	—	—	8,150	455	20	2 0	8,370	467 0
Tamarinds, to Great Britain, Brls.	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1 0
Totals - -	—	514	—	—	—	2,161	—	315 16	—	2,990 16

4. The value of such exportations, of which in these two years exactly three-fourths consisted of oranges, was in each of the last ten years as follows:—

Years.	Value.	Years.	Value.
—	—	—	—
	£		£
1855 -	3,104	1860 -	3,870
1856 -	3,394	1861 -	4,185
1857 -	4,021	1862 -	4,326
1858 -	3,723	1863 -	1,301
1859 -	4,428	1864 -	2,990

5. Oranges will fetch from 30*s.* to 32*s.* per thousand. The demand for lemons and limes is so small that their value does not exceed 10*s.* to 5*s.* per thousand respectively. New York offers a steady market for oranges. The southern ports, as Charleston and Savannah, used to take a certain quantity, from 80,000 to 100,000, at a time, before the late civil war.

Pine-apples.—1. These must be ranked next to fruit trees. They have, like salt, been long an article of production and exportation to the United States, and they are now shipped in considerable quantities to London. The cultivation was commenced about 100 years ago at Governor's Harbour, Tarpum Bay, and Rock Sound in Eleuthera, and in 20 years it had become very general in that island. The first cargo to England was shipped in 1842.

2. It appears uncertain whether the plant is a native of these islands or was introduced from the Windward Islands or Cuba. Three varieties are grown: 1°, the bird's eye, which is the original, or indigenous, variety; 2°, the sugar loaf; 3°, the Cuba, or scarlet, which was introduced about 1850 or 1852, and the cultivation of which has been rapidly extending during the last five years.

3. The sugar loaf, which is a juicy luscious fruit, and keeps better on a long voyage, is preferred for the English market. The Cuba, which is a larger fruit, firmer, and less sweet, is preferred in the United States, where it arrives in good condition after the shorter voyage, and fetches a higher price by 20 per cent. than the sugar loaf. It is found that it will thrive in soil which was considered unfit for the other kinds.

4. The cultivation of the bird's eye kind is going out. This variety is found to be more liable to the depredations of rats than the others. An instance of the loss by these animals may be cited. In one field of 40 acres of sugar loaf pine, the reduction in the yield of a recent year was estimated at 6,000 dozen, or one-third of the crop of the preceding year. Land crabs are also very destructive to pines in some places, as at the east end and Bight of Eleuthera. Like locusts elsewhere, they invade a field, march straight through it, and consume every fruit in their course. Destructive droughts occur at intervals of six or seven years.

5. The cultivation of the pine is chiefly carried on in Eleuthera, but it is also grown in other of the islands to windward, and St. Salvador has lately enjoyed a high reputation for the quality of its fruit, and several vessels have loaded there for the London market. It is not grown to any extent in New Providence.

6. The principal ports of shipment to England in Eleuthera are the three already mentioned and Savannah Sound. The largest shipments to the United States are from Harbour Island. The following statement shows the quantities cleared from each island in the years 1855 and 1864, but the clearances from Nassau represent almost entirely shipments from Eleuthera and St. Salvador, and those from Harbour Island represent the production of Eleuthera:—

Islands.	1855.				1864.			
	To Great Britain.		To United States.		To Great Britain.		To United States.	
	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.
	Dozens.	£	Dozens.	£	Dozens.	£	Dozens.	£
Nassau, N.P. - - - -	9,500	1,979	7,600	767	53,000	7,037	78,240	6,860
Harbour Island - - -	—	—	36,500	3,357	—	—	100,775	9,526
Eleuthera - - - -	6,969	1,436	4,982	4,284	8,500	1,479	39,700	3,699
Abaco - - - -	—	—	9,568	1,125	—	—	10,511	1,204
Total - - -	16,469	3,415	58,560	9,533	61,500	8,516	229,226	21,299

BAHAMAS.

7. The fruit is usually carried down to the boats in baskets on the heads of the labourers. It is a great advantage when, as at Tarpum Bay, it can be put on board the ship without transhipment. Much handling injures the fruit. At Rock Sound the produce of one estate is carried about two miles in spring waggons. This is the only road used for the purpose in the island.

8. One-fourth of the land under cultivation is usually in full bearing. An acre of land will contain on an average 2,000 dozen slips of the sugar loaf variety, and 1,600 of the Cuba variety. The first crops, gathered in the second year of growth, will yield 1,500 dozen pines; the second and third, 1,000 dozen.

9. The fields are cleaned, or ought to be cleaned, six times in the year, The labourers are obliged to wear canvas leggings and gauntlets to protect them from the spines of the leaves. The yield of the sugar loaf kind is one-third of the quantity planted; of the Cuba kind one-half. But the plants of the former last longer, say five years, while those of the latter last only three years. The average weight of a sugar loaf pine is three lbs., ; of a Cuba pine, 3½ lbs.

10. An idea of the extent and increase of the production of this fruit may be formed from the following statement of the quantities and value of the exportations during the last ten years :—

Years.	Quantities.	Total Value.	Average Value per Dozen.
	Dozens.	£	*s.* *d.*
1855	75,119	12,948	3 5
1856	134,237	12,394	1 10
1857	163,163	19,303	2 3
1858	195,099	19,748	2 0
1859	160,060	9,161	1 1
1860	153,500	17,346	2 3
1861	185,098	16,469	1 9
1862	172,000	23,174	2 8
1864	213,000	21,842	2 0
1863	277,000	29,380	2 1
Average	172,827	18,176	2 1

11. The ports of New York and London alone afford a steady market for pines. Other ports in the United States, such as Boston and Philadelphia, take from six to eight cargoes in a season, and those in the British North American Provinces seldom take a single cargo, or even half a one. No shipments are made to any other European port than London. The price is too high for the Liverpool and Lancashire markets. The competition of native fruits excludes this from France. Epidemics in the States spoil the market for a while.

12. To the United States the fruit is shipped like turnips, stripped of everything but its head, and packed loose and as close as possible in the hold. It occupies only two days to gather and ship a cargo for the United States. To England the whole tree, as it is called, was formerly shipped, leaves and shoots wrapped round the fruit, which they were supposed to keep fresh; but since 1858 only the shoots are left on the stalk. The gathering and loading for the English market occupy four or five days. The fruit is arranged in tiers, and great attention is paid to ventilation. The hatches are left open day and night throughout the voyage. Cargoes to England average 3,000 to 3,500 dozen, and to the United States 4,000 to 5,000 dozen.

13. The difference in the mode of shipment causes a difference in the price. The grower who, by parting with the shoots, loses the means of continuing or extending his cultivation, except by procuring shoots from other sources, must charge a higher price, and during the last two years there has been a great demand for shoots or slips; accordingly there is a fixed difference of price between the pines bought for the English and American markets. The average price of the former may be stated at 3*s.* a dozen, of the latter at 2*s.* The actual average valuation of shipments in 1864 to England was 2*s.* 9*d.*, and to the United States 1*s.* 10*d.* per dozen.

14. There is not much fluctuation in the price. Purchasers generally offer the price of the preceding year, unless some extraordinary circumstances affecting the supply or

demand should occur. They do not offer a higher price for larger or better fruit. The grower, therefore, has no inducement to improve the size or quality of his produce; he looks to quantity alone.

15. The expense of cultivation and shipment may be stated at 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per dozen, the selling price being 2*s.* to 3*s.* per dozen. The net proceeds of an acre in ordinary years are consequently,—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In the first year - -	93	15	0
„ second year - -	62	10	0
„ third year - -	62	10	0

Another informant states the average net yield at 60*l.* a year. The obstacles to the extension of the cultivation have been the limited quantity of land supposed to be suitable and the scarcity of labour.

16. There are usually two cuttings in a year. The Cuba pine is earlier than the sugar-loaf, and the two cuttings are early in May and late in June. The first cutting of the sugar-loaf variety is from the 1st to the 20th June, the second in July and August. The fruit of the first cutting is generally the best, and keeps best. In the United States it fetches double the price of the second, viz., 6*d.* apiece, instead of 3*d.* In England the average price is about 1*s.* apiece. The finest, of which the number is small, have sold of late years as high as 3*s.* 6*d.* apiece. Quantities sell at that price per dozen, or 3½*d.* apiece.

17. The limited period of cutting and shipment leads to hurry and waste, to a necessity for proceeding in spite of bad weather or other unfavourable circumstances, and to an excessive competition in the foreign market. The losses on shipment are often great. Many vessels come out in ballast from England; these usually clear at Nassau, and call at the ports of shipment to take in their cargoes. The cost of a voyage to and from England is from 350*l.* to 400*l.* or 500*l.*, and to and from the United States 600 to 800 dollars. Vessels chartered in the Bahamas to take a cargo to the United States may be engaged at 400 to 500 dollars.

18. The loss by decay, &c. on the voyage is very uncertain, and is often large. The causes which influence the amount are unknown, but it is generally supposed that shipments made in rainy seasons will not keep, owing probably to the excessive juiciness of the fruit. If the loss does not exceed 30 per cent., the transaction will yield a profit, but it often amounts to 75 per cent., and sometimes the whole cargo is destroyed. The average length of a voyage to England is 28 or 29 days; voyages have been made in 21 or 22 days, and have also extended to 40 days.

19. The mode of sale differs in England and the United States; in the former the fruit is sorted, parcelled, and catalogued, and sold in a fixed place on a fixed day; there is therefore sometimes the delay of some days before it can be sold. In New York it is sold in any quantities from the ship according to the demand, and is taken away by the purchasers.

Cotton.—1. The cultivation of this plant appears to have been introduced after 1783 by the loyalist refugees from Georgia and North Carolina, who settled in the Windward Islands of the group, and to have been kept up until about 1810. There are no records of the quantities produced or exported. In 1800 the lands had begun to be exhausted, through want of agricultural knowledge and skill, and there was a general complaint of distress. Capital had been sunk and expended. Since 1810, and especially since the emancipation of the slaves, cotton has ceased to be an object of cultivation, although plants have continued to exist in many islands, and here and there a small plantation, the produce of which has been cleaned by the hand, has escaped destruction. But in 1864 a company, supported by American and colonial capital, commenced operations in Long Island. A considerable tract of land was cleaned and planted. Wool to the value of several thousand pounds sterling has been shipped during the present year, and now other companies are being formed for the cultivation of cotton in Watling's Island, Exuma, New Providence, &c.

2. Looking to the amount known to have been produced about the end of last century, and to the quantity of available land, to the suitableness of the climate, and to the fact that the cotton plant becomes a perennial here, and will produce from three to seven years without fresh planting, there is every reason to anticipate that, with the application of capital and labour, and of an improved system of agriculture, all three long strangers in the out islands, an abundant and profitable supply of the finest qualities of cotton may be produced, rivalling, if not surpassing, that of the southern states of North America, and contributing to replace the anticipated deficiency in the future crops of those territories.

BAHAMAS.

Sponge.—1. This has become an important and valuable production of the Colony A large number of boats and men are employed in procuring sponges from the bottom of the ocean, where they grow, or are formed, adhering to rocks. They are obtained by diving, or by detaching and lifting them with a hook made for the purpose, in waters varying in depth from 12 feet to 5 fathoms. They are found throughout the islands, but principally on the shores of Exuma, Andros, and Abaco.

2. In their natural state they are covered with a black gelatinous animal substance; this used to be removed by burying the sponges in the sand for several days, and then beating them with sticks, after which they were dried, sorted, and shipped to Nassau. At present, however, they are kept on deck for two or three days, when they lose their vital power, and are then placed in a crawl for eight or ten days, when they are cleaned and left spread on the beach for several days, for the purpose of bleaching, in which state they are brought to Nassau. There they are sold in parcels; the roots are cut off; they are then trimmed and packed for exportation. A considerable number of persons are employed in these several operations.

3. The Bahama sponge is inferior to the Mediterranean species; 25 or 30 years ago it was of little value. It was classed as coarse and fine, the former including the qualities now known as velvet, sheepwool, and grass, and selling for four or five dollars, 16*s.* 8*d.* to 20*s.* 10*d.*, the cwt.; the fine or glove sponge sold for 10 dollars, 41*s.* 8*d.* per cwt.

4. Now it is divided into the eight following classes, to each of which is affixed the average price per lb. which it fetched in 1864.

1st. Common or boat sponge, with white or yellow tissue, called here sheepwool, and in America carriage sponge, 1*s.* 8*d.* per lb.

2nd. Common or velvet sponge, with brown tissue, 1*s.* 8*d.* per lb.

3rd. Large fine brown (fine hard head), 1*s.* 8*d.* per lb.

4th. Large coarse brown (coarse hard head), 10*d.* per lb.

5th. Common coarse or grass sponge, 4*d.* per lb.

6th. Large fine, soft tissue, not strong, called glove sponge, 4*d.* per lb.

7th. Small fine, soft tissue, and good forms, called beef sponge, found chiefly or only about the Andros Island shoals, 2*s.* 6*d.* per lb.

8th. Small fine, hard tissue (small, fine, hard head, or hard brown), best quality, also often called beef sponge, 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb.

5. Within the last 25 years sponge has been applied to a great many new purposes. The price of some qualities has doubled, of others quadrupled, and of some, such as velvet and sheepwool (Nos. 1 and 2), for which apparently there could have been no foreign demand, the price is ten times greater than formerly.

6. Large quantities of all the above kinds are exported to the United States; of Nos. 2 and 6 to England, and of Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 to France, which takes the finest qualities. They there undergo a final operation of cleaning and dyeing.

7. The exportations during the last 10 years have been:—

Years.	Quantities.	Total Value.	Average Value per Cwt.
	cwts.	£	£ *s.* *d.*
1855	2,386	9,613	4 0 6
1856	1,800	6,723	3 14 7
1857	2,657	11,025	4 3 0
1858	3,357	17,254	5 2 8
1859	4,737	24,114	5 1 10
1860	4,196	29,450	7 0 4
1861	6,466	32,159	4 19 5
1862	3,503	13,724	3 18 3
1863	1,869	14,889	7 19 3
1864	2,348	14,745	6 5 7
Average	3,331	17,369	5 4 3

8. At present, perhaps owing to the large reduction in the collection and exportation during the late war in the United States, the supply is not equal to the demand, and prices rule high.

Shells.—1. The several varieties of the so-called conch shell, with which the shores of these islands abound, have at times, and up to the commencement of the late civil war, formed an important object of exportation, and their collection has afforded an useful means of employment to the maritime and littoral population. The value of the exportations, chiefly made to France, during the last 10 years has been—

Years.	Value.
	£
1855	788
1856	2,263
1857	6,351
1858	2,481
1859	2,224
1860	1,727
1861	550
1862	765
1863	988
1864	786

Turtle and Turtle Shell form the only other article of regular annual exportation; the former dwindled away during the civil war; the latter rather increased, whence it may be inferred that the supply of live turtle increased, but that they were consumed in Nassau. The meat of the turtle is sold in the market like beef, and at the same price.

VALUE EXPORTED.

Years.	Turtle.	Turtle Shell.
	£	£
1855	782	391
1856	890	358
1857	952	207
1858	1,049	354
1859	881	342
1860	768	348
1861	783	273
1862	538	196
1863	208	334
1864	89	422

Miscellaneous.—1. The remaining articles of production and manufacture exported during the last 10 years are not of sufficient importance to deserve any special notice. They comprise ambergris, arrowroot, cotton wool (in 1864), green ginger, straw hats, hides, honey, horses, potatoes, preserves, rags, shell-work, starch, turpentine and resin, and wax.

11. *Commerce.*

Imports and Exports.—1. The foreign trade of the Colony is chiefly confined to the port of Nassau in New Providence, and is not usually extended beyond the United Kingdom and France in Europe, and the United States, British North American Provinces, British West Indies, Cuba, and Hayti, in the western hemisphere. Harbour Island and Inagua have a direct trade with the United States, exchanging respectively their fruit and salt for American goods, chiefly provisions.

2. The late civil war in the United States led to Nassau becoming one of the chief emporiums for a trade with the ports of the Southern Confederacy, blockaded by the Federal government. The extent to which this was carried on is shown in the following figures, abstracted from Appendix No. 12.

TOTAL VALUE of GOODS imported into and exported from the Bahamas, 1860–1864.

Years.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1860	234,029	157,350
1861	274,584	195,584
1862	1,250,322	1,007,755
1863	4,295,316	3,368,567
1864	5,346,112	4,672,398

BAHAMAS.

3. The blockade of the Southern ports was first proclaimed on the 19th April 1861. Only four vessels, two of which were steamers, appear to have run the blockade from Charleston to Nassau in the remainder of that year. Consequently the years 1860 and 1861 exhibit the normal state of the trade of the Colony, a little increased during the latter year by the abnormal state of the trade with the neighbouring continent.

4. The operation of the new trade is shown in the following abstract of Appendices Nos. 13 and 14:—

Years.	Imports from		
	United Kingdom.	British North America.	United States.
	£	£	£
1860	25,442	762	92,800
1861	51,025	166	136,002
1862	762,627	20,803	352,520
1863	1,054,775	60,797	2,932,945
1864	1,218,914	51,217	3,772,389

5. Of which latter sum 3,584,587*l.* represents cotton, imported, with few exceptions, from the two southern Confederate ports of Charleston and Wilmington.

Years.	Exports to		
	United Kingdom.	British North America.	United States.
	£	£	£
1860	37,901	1,401	79,834
1861	43,901	2,304	104,027
1862	304,733	547,258	134,579
1863	2,124,539	978,681	155,014
1864	3,511,208	889,470	93,314

6. The exports to British North America represent goods cleared chiefly for St. John's, New Brunswick, but intended to be run through the blockade.

7. The normal state of the trade of the Colony is shown in the following abstract for the year 1860:—

Countries.	Total Value.		Per centage Proportion.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	per cent.	per cent.
United Kingdom - -	25,442	37,901	10·9	24·1
British North America -	762	1,401	·3	·9
„ West Indies - -	2,662	2,732	1·2	1·7
United States, America -	92,800	79,834	39·6	50·7
Colonies of Spain (Cuba) -	4,909	1,672	2·1	1·1
„ Denmark (St. Thomas) - - -	10	—	—	—
France - - -	2,061	31,976	·9	20·3
Hayti - - -	2,493	1,834	1·1	1·2
Wrecks - - -	102,890	—	43·9	—
Total - -	234,029	157,350	100·	100·

8. The proportion of wrecked goods imported was large in 1860, but it may be taken on an average at two-fifths of the imports; shipments from the United States at two-fifths; and from the United Kingdom and other countries at one-fifth. Of the export trade more than one half is to the United States; nearly one-third to the United Kingdom, and more than one-half of the remainder to France. The details of this for the five years before the civil war in the United States, 1856–1860, are shown in Appendix No. 15.

9. A description of the quantities and value of the several articles of imports and exports in the year 1864 is furnished in Appendices Nos. 16 and 17, and a similar return of the value of the trade with British North America and the United States, as exhibiting the nature of the blockade running trade, is furnished for the five years 1860–1864, Appendices Nos. 13 and 14.

10. The following abstract will furnish an idea of the principal enumerated articles imported and exported in 1864.

IMPORTED.

—	Quantities.	Value.	Of which was Re-exported to United States and British North America.
		£	£
Ale - - - gallons	365,742	55,823	2,039
„ - - - dozen	102,775		
Brandy - - gallons	191,591	98,535	3,013
Coal - - - tons	46,862	44,119	nil.
Coffee - - cwts.	11,487	34,936	27,708
Cotton, raw - - bales	62,898	3,490,069	nil.
Flour, wheaten - barrels	27,708	33,947	414
Meat, salted - - cwts.	25,796	32,176	18,832
Oil - - - gallons	97,825	24,603	5,780
Rice - - - cwts.	34,743	29,885	nil.
Sugar, refined - „	55,828	156,267	26,385
Tobacco - - „	16,192	94,652	348
„ segars - 1,000	11,060	48,514	5,477
Wine - - - gallons	44,314	26,523	8,016
Other enumerated articles -		163,538	
Unenumerated articles -		1,012,525	
Total - -		5,346,112	

EXPORTED.

—	Quantities.	Value.	Value of Exports to United States and British North America.
		£	£
Coffee - - cwts.	7,919	28,054	27,708
Cotton, Linen, Woollen goods - - £		391,460	391,460
Cotton, raw - - bales	54,612	3,498,122	—
Hardware, Earthenware - - £		195,099	189,206
Leather, raw - - „		10,132	9,558
„ manufactured - „		44,373	42,103
Meat, salted - cwts.	15,512	19,818	18,832
Pine apples - 1,000 dozen	277	29,380	—
Sugar, refined - cwts.	8,710	26,472	26,385
Tobacco, manufactured cwts.	27,236	92,998	—
Miscellaneous - -		336,490	106,814
Total - -		4,672,398	982,185

BAHAMAS.

11. The third column of each statement represents the value chiefly of goods shipped to run the blockade. The total value of this trade, including the amount of the restricted commerce carried on with the Federal States, in each of the five years was as follows :—

IMPORTED.

Years.	United States.	British N. America.	Total.
	£	£	£
1860	92,800	762	93,562
1861	136,002	166	136,168
1862	352,520	5,758	358,278
1863	2,932,945	60,797	2,993,742
1864	3,665,086	51,217	3,716,303

EXPORTED.

Years.	United States.	British N. America.	Total.
	£	£	£
1860	79,834	1,401	81,235
1861	104,071	2,304	106,375
1862	134,579	547,258	681,837
1863	155.014	978,681	1,133,695
1864	92,715	889,470	982,185

Blockade-running Trade.—1. The following additional particulars relating to the blockade-running trade will be of interest.

2. The first vessel that arrived from a blockaded port was the "Prince of Wales," a small Confederate schooner of 74 tons, manned by five men, which arrived from Charleston with 140 bales of cotton on the 5th December 1861. The first vessel which left Nassau to run the blockade, clearing for St. John's, N. B., was the Confederate steamer "Theodora," which sailed on the 16th December 1861 with a cargo, having arrived on the 10th December with 75 bales of cotton.

3. The last vessel which arrived was the steamer "Imogene," which brought a cargo of cotton from Galveston on 10th May 1865. The last which cleared to run the blockade direct from Nassau was the steamer "Little Hattie," which left on the 25th February 1865.

4. Fort Fisher fell on the 17th January 1865; the news reached Nassau on the 24th of that month. Charleston was evacuted on the 10th February following. The news arrived at Nassau on the 18th February.

5. After the end of February a few steamers left for Havannah with the view of trying for an opening on the coast of Texas; only two returned to this port with cargoes.

6. The first British vessels that engaged in the trade were schooners which came out from Charleston in March 1862. The steamer "Gladiator" left Nassau on the 27th December 1861, and ran into Charleston on 2nd January 1862, but did not return to Nassau.

7. During the years 1862–63 a considerable trade was carried on in sailing vessels, chiefly schooners and sloops; and even two open boats, one of two tons, ran the blockade from the coast of Florida in 1862. But after the month of May 1863 the trade was carried on almost exclusively by steamers, and became confined to the ports of Charleston and Wilmington. During these years 72 vessels left for the American coast laden with salt, and 20 vessels arrived with turpentine. The rest, with 14 exceptions, were laden with cotton, and in 29 cases with cotton and other produce.

8. The extent of the trade, and the excess of vessels which left Nassau, is shown in the following abstract of Appendix No. 18.

Years.	Arrived from Southern States.		Departed for Southern States.	
	Steamers.	Small Sailing Vessels.	Steamers.	Small Sailing Vessels.
1861	2	2	3	1
1862	32	74	46	109
1863	113	27	173	48
1864	105	6	165	2
1865	35	—	41	—
Total -	288	109	428	160
			288	109
	Excess of Departures -		140	51

9. Of these, 42 steamers are known to have been captured and 22 to have been wrecked, chiefly off the ports of Charleston and Wilmington. Others never returned to this port. Of the total number 32 were Confederate vessels.

10. The trade with each port is shown in Appendix No. 19. Of 400 vessels which arrived from the Southern States, 156 came from Charleston, 164 from Wilmington, and only 80 from other ports. Of the total departures 588, three-fourths, viz., 432, cleared for St. John's, New Brunswick. Their exact destination was not made known.

11. Of the 23 steamers which remained in harbour, or arrived in it, after the southern ports were taken,—

12	cleared for	England	3	cleared for	Havannah.
4	„	Halifax	1	„	St. Thomas.
2	„	Bermuda	1	„	Matamoras.

12. During the whole period, 1861 to 1865, 164 steamers connected with the trade of the Southern States entered the port of Nassau. Of these 108 brought cargoes from the coast. 56 are recorded as having left the port, but do not figure among the arrivals from the coast.

13. The following is the number of times which successful steamers entered with cargoes from the coast. The majority of these had succeeded in passing the blockading fleet twice on each voyage.

No. of Voyages.	No. of Steamers.
1	51
2	23
3	6
4	5
5	2
6	4
7	2
8	3
9	3
10	2
18	1

14. The latter fortunate vessel was the "Syren," which left for Charleston on her 19th voyage upon the 13th February 1865, ignorant of the capture of that place, and fell into the hands of the Federals.

15. The steamers at first employed were such as happened to be in the Southern ports, or were purchased at random in England and sent out for the trade. A class of vessels specially adapted for it, and of a size suited to the port of Charleston, were afterwards built. The first of this class, the "Banshee," of 216 tons burthen, was launched at Liverpool in November 1862. It was the first steel boat which crossed the Atlantic. Her plates were only one-eighth of an inch thick. She made her first three voyages to and from Wilmington, with full cargoes each way, in the short space of six weeks, and was captured on her fourth voyage.

16. At a later period a larger class of vessels was built and sent out, some 260 feet long by 32 in width, and drawing only seven feet when loaded. The "Coquette" and

"Vulture" are types of these. Their tonnage respectively was 390 and 335 tons. Some of this class have made the voyage between Wilmington and Nassau (about 600 miles) in 44 hours. Shortly before the close of the war another class, of still greater capacity and speed, one with twin screws, were sent out, but only one or two of these found employment.

17. The cost of running these vessels, and the salaries paid to their officers and pilots, were very high. In 1863 the expenses of a vessel which could carry 800 bales (including wages, coal, provisions, labour, repairs, and agents' commissions), was about 3,000*l.* for a round trip to and fro. In the following year the expenses were increased to 5,000*l.*, on account chiefly of higher wages and higher bounties consequent upon increased risk to the officers and crew. The salary of the captain rose from 600*l.* to 1,000*l.* for the trip, with the privilege of carrying 10 bales of cotton on his own account; the purser and first officer received each 300*l.*, with a similar privilege of carrying two bales each, and the pilot received 1,000*l.*, with the privilege of carrying five bales.

18. A first class steamer would run from Charleston or Wilmington to Nassau in about 48 hours. She could be discharged in 24 hours, the labourers working day and night; but three days for unloading and reloading was considered good despatch. The excitement, extravagance, and waste which prevailed under such circumstances may be easily imagined.

Wrecks.—1. It has been mentioned that two-fifths of the imports during the last few years consist of goods saved from vessels wrecked within the Colony. The number of these is large, owing to the vast trade which passes through, or near, these most dangerous coasts, fringed with shoals, and bristling with cays and rocks, as shown in preceding portions of this report, where not only strong and shifting currents, and sudden and violent gales, expose the conscientious and wary navigator to unexpected dangers and difficulties, but where innumerable localities and opportunities offer a temptation to the dishonest shipmaster wilfully to cast away his vessel for the purpose of defrauding the underwriters, or of obtaining by secret arrangement with the wreckers a share in the salvage.

2. The frequency of these occurrences, and the rich prizes sometimes obtained by the wreckers, have led to a large number of the inhabitants in some of the islands devoting themselves principally, though few, if any, exclusively, to the occupation of wrecking, cruising about those places where accidents most frequently occur, or being ready to rush off as soon as they hear of a vessel stranded, or in danger of stranding. This has had the necessary and usual effect of demoralizing the persons engaged in such occupations, of diverting their attention from agriculture, or any other industrial pursuit, exposing them to the trials and temptations of alternate abundance and want, and accustoming them to rejoice in the misfortunes which bring calamity and ruin to others. At the same time it cannot be denied that numerous lives and much property are saved through their instrumentality; that large numbers of intrepid and hardy seamen are reared up, and that a large income is legitimately derived by the colonists from this source, which, however undesirable, is incidental to their geographical position.

3. The Local Legislature has endeavoured to bring the wrecking system under control by a law which requires licences to be taken out for men and vessels, provides for the appointment of wreckmasters, apportions the share of salvage which each vessel and its crew may claim, and imposes penalties for certain acts of misconduct. But it requires both enforcement and amendment.

4. The number and description of wrecks has been considerably affected by the erection of numerous lighthouses, and still more by the late civil war in the United States, and the number of licensed vessels and men has been greatly reduced. In 1858 there were licensed—

	Vessels - - -	302
	Men - - -	2,679
In 1865 only,	Vessels - - -	176
	Men - - -	712

5. I have recently made a separate report upon the number of wrecks which have been reported as occurring within the Colony during the last seven years. I may reproduce here the principal facts therein detailed, and add some other particulars illustrative of the wrecking system.

6. The number of wrecks reported in 1858–64 was 313, of which 259 were total

losses. In the earlier years no record was kept of partial loss, and in 1864 are included 19 vessels which came into Nassau in distress, leaky, or requiring repair.

Years.	Total Loss.	Other.	Total.
1858 - -	46	—	46
1859 - -	41	—	41
1860 - -	44	1	45
1861 - -	32	8	40
1862 - -	32	6	38
1863 - -	33	3	36
1864 - -	31	36	67
Total - -	259	54	313

7. The localities in which the above disasters occurred are shown in the following statement:—

To Windward:		
On Little Bahama Bank - - - - -	35	
Of which on Abaco, 31.		
On and outside of Great Bahama Bank:		
To the East - - - - - -	59	
Of which on Long Cay, 27.		
To the South-east - - - - - -	57	
Of which on Inagua, 43.		
Total to windward - -		151
To the South - - - - - -		3
To Leeward:		
On Cay Sal Bank (to the South West) - - -	3	
On Great Bahama Bank:		
To the West - - - - - -	43	
Of which on the Biminis, 17; Orange Cays, 12.		
On the Bank (Central Channel) - - - -	38	
Of which on Long Bank, 10; the Gingerbread Ground, 9.		
Central - - - - - - -	26	
Of which on the Berry Islands, 11.		
On Little Bahama Bank - - - - -	17	
Of which on Grand Bahama, 10.		
Total to Leeward - -		127
At sea, not stated, or outside the group - - -		32
Total - - -		313

8. In 238 cases the ports of departure and destination are recorded, and the casualties are shown to affect indifferently the up and down trades, viz: 121 vessels bound north, 117 vessels bound south. But out of 74 vessels wrecked in the trade with the Gulf of Mexico, chiefly with ports of the United States, 48 were bound south, and 26 north.

9. The number and proportion of wrecks to windward and to leeward, respectively, have been greatly affected by the civil war in America, which stopped the commercial communication between the two sections of the United States. Of the wrecks to leeward, indicating the trade with the Gulf of Mexico, the proportion before the war viz., 1858–60, was 51·6, to 46·8 of wrecks to windward. In the years 1861–64 these proportions were as 39·9 to 59·5.

10. Of the 313 casualties, nearly two-thirds occurred in the winter months, although the hurricane season in these latitudes prevails from August to October, viz.:

	Wrecks.	Per-centage proportion.
From November to April - -	199	63·6
From May to October - - -	114	36·4
	313	100·

BAHAMAS.

11. The season of the year does not appear to affect specially either the windward or leeward trade, but possibly it may affect the up and down trades differently in those localities.

12. Of the total number of wrecks whose nationality was reported (300), 110 were British, 157 American, 13 French, 6 Spanish, and 12 belonged to other nations. The proportion of American was much greater before the war. While in 1858–60 the British averaged annually 8, and the American 29 vessels, the latter averaged in 1860–64 only 14, and the British rose in 1864 to 42 vessels.

13. This change in the proportion was caused not only by the cessation of American commerce with the Gulf of Mexico, but it was increased by the transfer of a large number of American vessels to British registry. In the port of Nassau alone 229 vessels were so transferred in the four years 1860–64, while during the preceding six years the number was only 18.

14. The size and character of the vessels wrecked may be inferred from the fact that of 139 whose rig was recorded,—

38	were	schooners.
23	,,	brigantines.
24	,,	brigs.
32	,,	barques.
9	,,	ships.
126	,,	sailing vessels.
4	,,	steamers, men-of-war.
9	,,	,, commercial.
139		

15. It is remarked that the value of the wrecks has fallen off of late years, even before the war in America; that a smaller number of large and valuable ships have been wrecked. The following two statements of the salvage awarded in each of the last ten years, and in the last six cases brought before the Vice-Admiralty Court, will afford some idea of the profits to wreckers, and of the small proportion of cases that come before that Court.

Years.	Derelict Cases.			Salvage Cases.		
	No. of Cases.	Amount of Salvage awarded.	Average Amount per Case.	No. of Cases.	Amount of Salvage awarded.	Average Amount per Case.
		£ s. d.	£		£ s. d.	£
1855	10	3,836 3 9	383	Nil.	—	—
1856	5	3,250 10 9	650	4	8,742 9 11	2,185
1857	5	253 18 0	50	7	9,185 1 5	1,312
1858	5	408 14 10	81	1	4,994 15 8	4,994
1859	2	159 6 6	79	3	5,512 1 5	1,837
1860	6	865 13 4	144	5	10,429 3 9	2,085
1861	8	252 10 6	31	2	5,540 12 4	3,770
1862	6	135 14 11	22	4	2,859 11 9	714
1863	5	1,446 15 4	289	5	10,592 16 1	2,118
1864	7	709 2 7	101	6	2,102 2 4	350
Total -	59	11,318 10 5	—	37	59,958 14 8	—
Average -	- -	- - -	191	- -	- - -	1,620

Nos.	Value of Hull and Cargo on which Salvage was awarded.	Per-centage awarded.	Amount of Salvage awarded.	Number of Boats and others among whom the Amount awarded was divisible.
	£		£ s. d.	
1	4,072	33⅓	1,374 10 1	13 vessels, and some open boats.
2	4,803	From 10 to 33⅓	1,372 11 5	19 vessels.
3	26,630	25	6,667 0 0	6 vessels, and 101 men from the shore.
4	22,000	—	80 0 0	1 vessel.
5	5,087	37	1,892 0 0	9 vessels.
6	Not stated.	Not stated.	745 0 0	

16. The aggregate of the four cases which represent the ordinary character of salvage transactions shows a total sum of 11,304*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* awarded to the wreckers, and an average of 2,826*l.* per vessel.

17. In the case of the American steamer "Herman Livingstone," which was stranded and got off in September 1865, the salvage agreed upon between the master and the salvors was 30,000 dollars. The latter, after discounting the bill, received 5,480*l.* 3*s.* This was divisible among 32 vessels and boats, entitled to 152 shares. The owners, or others interested in the fitting out, of the vessels received between them 1,826*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, or rather less than 60*l.* per vessel and boat. The 152 men received between them 2,653*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*, or 17*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* each.

18. The nature of the cargoes of the 313 wrecked vessels reported between 1858 and 1864 was as follows:—

Assorted cargoes	86
Colonial produce	81
Provisions	30
Timber, etc.	49
Metals, Minerals, &c.	23
Other	6
In ballast	28
Not stated	10
Total	313

19. The valuation entered at the Customs of all wrecked goods which passed through the books of the Department in the last ten years, distinguishing the value of hulks and materials, of the unenumerated articles which paid the 20 per cent. consumption duty, and of free goods on which the auction duty of 5 per cent. was paid, was as follows:—

Years.	Hulks and Materials.	Paying Ad valorem Duty of 20 per cent.	Free Goods paying Auction Duty of 5 per cent.	Other paying Specific Duties or re-exported.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1855	2,847	12,160	34,600	Not stated	Not stated
1856	3,927	15,375	20,320	46,682	96,304
1857	4,620	6,945	4,980	71,028	87,573
1858	4,613	17,255	1,120	41,521	64,509
1859	3,087	9,195	16,100	41,429	69,811
1860	2,940	16,180	5,040	78,730	102,890
1861	2,693	1,335	4,800	57,691	66,519
1862	3,787	1,495	3,440	40,456	49,178
1863	1,667	7,760	5,160	36,079	50,666
1864	667	7,200	2,560	40,987	51,414
Total	30,848	94,900	98,120	454,603	638,864

20. It is stated on good authority that the average salvage, allowed chiefly by arbitration, which twenty years ago amounted to 60 per cent., has not, during the last five years, exceeded 40 per cent., and that the charges for commission amount to 10 per cent. on the merchandise saved, and for labour, storage, &c., to 4 per cent. more. It may be inferred, therefore, from the above, the extent to which the population of the colony, maritime and commercial, has been and continues to be interested in this source of employment and income.

Lighthouses and Beacons.—1. In connexion with the subject of wrecks, and the efforts made by Her Majesty's Government to diminish their frequency by the erection of lighthouses on the most dangerous points of the Bahama group, the following list of lights and beacons constructed and maintained by the Board of Trade may be enumerated:—

Date of Erection.

1.—1836, May. Gun cay. S. of the Biminis, on the Great Bahama bank. Lat. 25° 34′ 30″ N.; Long. 79° 6′ 30″ W.; revolving, 80 ft. above the sea. Radius, 11·83 miles.

2.—1836, June. Abaco (Hole-in-the-wall). On S.E. point of Abaco, at entrance of N.E. Providence channel. Lat. 25° 51′ 11″ N.; Long. 77° 11′ 11″ W.; revolving, 160 ft. above the sea. Radius, 16·73 miles.

Date of Erection.

3.—Begun in 1838. Cay Sal (Double-headed-shot-cays). On N.W. point of Cay Sal bank, W. of Great Bahama bank. Lat. 23° 56′ 23″ N.; Long. 80° 26′ 38″ W.; fixed, 100 ft. above the sea. Radius, 13·23 miles.

4.—1859, August. Great Isaacs. On a small cay within N.W. point of Great Bahama bank, near entrance of N.W. Providence channel. Lat. 26° 2′ N.; Long. 79° 6′ 30″ W.; revolving, 158 ft. above the sea. Radius, 16·50 miles.

5.—1860, March. Cay Lobos. On a cay on southern edge of Great Bahama bank, facing Cayo Romano, Cuba. Lat. 22° 22′ 30″ N.; Long. 77° 35′ 5″ W.; fixed, 146 ft. above the sea. Radius, 16 miles.

6.—1863, April. Stirrup's Cay. On a cay near N.W. point of the group of Berry islands, in N.W. Providence channel, near entrance of channel across Great Bahama bank. Lat. 20° 49′ 40″ N.; Long. 77° 54′ W.; fixed, 81 ft. above the sea. Radius, 11·91 miles.

7.—1863, August. Elbow Cay. On a cay off the most easterly point of the coast of Abaco. Lat. 26° 33′ 30″ N.; Long. 76° 58′ 30″ W.; fixed, 123 ft. above the sea. Radius, 14·7 miles.

A light is in the course of erection on Castle Island, at the S.W. point of Acklin's Island, to guide navigators passing through the Crooked Island passage.

2. The Colonial Government has erected and maintains a light on Hog Island, at the entrance of the harbour of Nassau. Lat. 25° 5′ 6″ N.; Long. 77° 21′ 2″ W.; 70 ft. above the sea. Radius, 11·07 miles. And in 1865 a small fixed light was erected at Athol Island, about four miles to the eastward of the harbour of Nassau. Lat. 25° 5′ N.; Long. 77° 17′ 30″ W.; 50 ft. above the sea. Radius, 9 miles.

3. Beacons are erected at—

Ship Channel Rock, Exuma Cays - -	70 feet high.
Adderley Cay, Exuma - - -	40 „
Channel Cay (Morse Channel), Exuma -	50 „
Stocking Island, Exuma - - -	126 „
Gun Hill, Little Exuma - - -	50 „
Booby Cay, Long Island - - -	47 „

Hogsty Reef, near Inagua, fallen down; about to be replaced.

4. The expenditure for the lighthouse service paid in the colony, including the maintenance of a brig employed in visiting the stations and supplying them with provisions, and the cost of provisions and oil received from England, amounted in 1863 to 8,419*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, in 1864 „ 8,643*l.* 12*s.* 0*d.*

Ports of Entry.—1. The established ports of entry are—

1. Nassau, in New Providence, including Salt Cay Bank, Andros Island, Green Cay, the cays extending southerly from Ship Channel Cay to Harvey Cay, Berry islands, Bimini islands, and all adjacent islands and cays within above limits.
2. Green Turtle Cay, in Abaco, including Little Abaco, Grand Bahama, and all islands and cays on the Little Bahama Bank.
3. Dunmore town, in Harbour Island, including the part of Eleuthera west of Glass Window, all adjacent islands and cays to the S.W. point of current.
4. Governor's Harbour, in Eleuthera, including the remainder of Eleuthera and the adjacent islands and cays.
5. Great Exuma, including Little Exuma, all cays from Harvey's Cay to White Cay, Great and Little St. Salvador, and all adjacent cays within the above limits.
6. Clarence harbour, Long Island, and all adjacent islands and cays.
7. Rum Cay, including Watling's Island, Conception Island, and all adjacent islands and cays.
8. Fortune Island (Long Cay), including Crooked Island, Acklin Island, Atwood cays, French or Plana cays, Mira Por Vos cays, Hogsty reef, and all adjacent islands and cays within the above limits.
9. Ragged Island, including all islands and cays from Pear Cay to Cay Verde and Cay St. Domingo.
10. Inagua (Mathew's Town), including Little Inagua, Mayaguana, and all adjacent islands and cays.

2. At each of the above places there is a sub-collector of customs; Nassau and Mathew's Town (Inagua) are warehousing ports.

Tariff.—1. A large proportion of the revenue is derived from customs duties. Specific duties are imposed upon the principal articles of consumption, and upon a few other articles, and duties of 15 per cent. are charged upon unenumerated articles imported direct, and 20 per cent. upon those imported otherwise, which includes wrecked goods.

2. During the last eight years, both before and during the American war, the customs duties have yielded nearly three-fourths, viz., 73 per cent., of the total revenue. Previously to the war the duties on unenumerated articles amounted to 27 per cent. of the whole revenue from customs; during the war the proportion increased to 36 per cent. See Appendix No. 21.

Shipping.—1. The foreign trade of the whole Colony, and of each of the islands, for the last ten years is shown in Appendix No. 22. No record is kept of the trade between the several islands. Appendices Nos. 23 to 25 have been added to show the countries with which trade was carried on, and the nationality of the vessels in which it was carried on, during two years before the American war, and during the last year of that war. It would have occupied too much space to have carried this over the same period as that to which Appendix No. 19 refers. The year 1855 has been added because the returns of that year exhibit the trade of each out island separately.

2. From these statements it results that, of the total tonnage which entered ports in the Colony from 1855 to 1860, during the normal state of the trade of the Colony,—

53·2	per cent.	arrived at	Nassau, N. P.
18·1	„	„	Inagua.
7·2	„	„	Harbour Island.
6·	„	„	Crooked Island.
4·6	„	„	Eleuthera.
3·4	„	„	Abaco.
3·	„	„	Rum Cay.
2·4	„	„	Ragged Island.
1·2	„	„	Exuma.
·9	„	„	Long Island.
100·			Total

3. In 1860 the proportion had increased in favour of Nassau to 64 per cent. of the total tonnage.

4. Secondly, that the tonnage entered from each country during the three years, 1855, 1860, and 1864 was respectively,—

——	1855.	1860.	1864.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
From the United Kingdom - -	—	7·6	31·1
„ British North America - -	—	·5	1·8
„ „ West Indies - -	—	19·2	5·2
„ Hamburg - - -	—	—	·1
„ France - - - -	—	2·1	·3
„ Portugal - - - -	—	—	·1
„ United States, Northern - -	—	57·2	21·7
„ „ Southern - -	—		23·9
„ Colonies of Spain (Cuba) - -	—	8·3	9·4
„ „ France - -	—	—	1·4
„ „ Denmark (St. Thomas)	—	·8	2·4
„ Hayti - - - -	—	4·3	·4
„ Mexico - - - -	—	—	1·4
Total - - -	100·	100·	100·

5. It will be seen from the above how small the trade with Europe is under ordinary circumstances.

6. Thirdly, that the tonnage belonging to each country during the same years was,—

	1855.	1860.	1864.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
United Kingdom - - -	56·1	7·6	51·3
British colonies - - -		53·2	20·6
France - - - - -	—	2·5	·9
Denmark - - - - -	1·6	—	—
Spain - - - - -	·5	·3	·3
Holland - - - - -	·3	—	—
Hamburg - - - - -	—	—	·1
United States - - - -	39·7	35·3	26·7
Hayti - - - - -	1·8	1·1	·1
Total - - -	100·	100·	100·

7. A harbour master and a health officer for the port of Nassau are appointed and paid by the Government, and pilots, paid by fees according to the draught of vessels, are appointed by the Government for that port and the other principal ports of the Colony.

Ship-building.—1. The size and tonnage of vessels and boats built within the Colony and registered at Nassau have fallen off considerably of late years. The aggregate of the three years, 1855–57, was 79 vessels of 2,829 tons, and of the three years, 1862–64, 78 vessels of only 841 tons. During the 10 years, 1855–64, there were constructed in—

Abaco - -	108	vessels of	2,233 tons.
Harbour Island -	26	„	1,227 „
Nassau - -	59	„	1,217 „
Andros - -	13	„	228 „
Eleuthera - -	5	„	183 „
Long Cay - -	6	„	153 „
All others - -	13	„	175 „
Total -	234	„	5,559 „

2. These vessels are chiefly schooners and sloops. Harbour Island and Eleuthera alone have since 1855 launched any of a size above 30 tons, but for the last three years they have only launched one sloop of 12 tons. See Appendix No. 26.

Registry of Ships.—1. During the late American war a considerable number of American vessels, northern and southern, were registered as British vessels at the port of Nassau under bills of sale, genuine or colourable; this has been already noticed. The number in each of the last 10 years has been—

Years.	No.		
1855	3		
1856	2		
1857	5		
1858	—	18	
1859	4		
1860	4		Total, 347.
1861	39		
1862	87		
1863	111	329	
1864	92		

Tonnage Dues.—1. A charge of 1*s.* per ton is levied on all vessels arriving from ports beyond the limits of the Bahamas, but a drawback of one half that amount is allowed upon all vessels taking away a full cargo of Bahama produce, or filling up with Bahama produce, without landing any part of their original cargo, and by an Act of 1865 a further remission of the whole of the duty is granted to vessels taking away whole cargoes of salt or fruit, or in the proportion of 10 tons to every 20 tons of their registered tonnage.

2. A tonnage duty of 1*s.* a ton is also charged on all vessels departing from the Colony with a cargo not consisting entirely of Bahama produce. This was imposed originally to obtain a revenue from vessels laden with cotton which had run the blockade in the late civil war in America.

3. A charge of 1*s.* a ton is imposed upon all vessels for which a British register is

obtained in the port of Nassau. This also was originally imposed to meet the numerous cases of American ships transferred to British registry during the late civil war. Both charges are now maintained for revenue purposes.

4. The total revenue derived from this source has been during the last eight years,—

Years.	Amount.
	£
1857	1,598
1858	409
1859	1,253
1860	1,227
1861	1,714
1862	2,421
1863	6,005
1864	7,457
	2,774 Export tonnage dues.

5. The returns do not show the amount of drawback paid upon vessels shipping Bahama produce, but upon the total tonnage which arrived from 1857 to 1864 the above dues, paid on arrivals, average $10\frac{1}{4}d.$ per ton. Allowing, therefore, for the mail steamer, which does not pay tonnage dues, and any other vessels entitled to claim exemption, the loss by drawback amounts to about $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ out of the 1*s.* payable per ton.

Public Market, Nassau.—1. This is maintained under a local Act, which authorizes the commissioners to levy certain rents upon stalls and wharves erected by them, and for the use of the slaughter-house. The following statement of the receipts during the last six years will show the effect of the blockade-running trade upon the consumption of the city.

Years.	Amount.	Average.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£
1859	358 7 0	
1860	465 2 2	449
1861	523 8 8	
1862	644 4 11	
1863	855 18 0	894
1864	1,184 4 6	

Prices and Wages.—1. No reliable statement can be furnished of prices or wages for the last few years. In ordinary times the price of meat is from 8*d.* to 1*s.* per lb., and of bread 3*d.* per lb. The wages of servants, from 30*s.* to 50*s.* a month for males, and from 10*s.* to 20*s.* a month for females. The wages of predial labourers from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day, and of artizans from 4*s.* to 8*s.*, but no measure can be applied to the demands of any of these classes during the years 1863–4; 20*s.* to 24*s.* a day for a carpenter, 10*s.* for a common labourer, was frequently demanded and given. The Government was charged 27*s.* a day for a tinsmith and 24*s.* for a plumber. The prices of almost all articles of consumption rose proportionally, and the legislature was obliged to make a temporary addition of 25 per cent. to the salaries of all public officers during the years 1864 and 1865. An allowance was also made from colonial funds to officers of the garrison for the greater part of that period.

Exchange and Coin.—1. The ordinary rate of exchange upon London is $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per cent. premium. The difference in the rate upon 30 and 60 days bills is about $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per cent. The rates in 1864 of bills drawn by the public bank and merchants were as follows:—

Months.	At 30 Days.	At 60 Days.
January	1 per cent. premium.	1 per cent. premium.
February	2 „	$1\frac{1}{2}$ „
March	$1\frac{1}{2}$ „	1 „
April	2 „	1 „
May	3 „	2 „
June	3 „	2 „
July	3 „	2 „
August	3 „	1 „
September	$1\frac{1}{2}$ „	1 „
October	1 „	At par.
November	$1\frac{1}{2}$ „	1 per cent. premium.
December	$1\frac{1}{2}$ „	„

BAHAMAS.

2. English gold and English and United States silver coins, chiefly the latter, circulate in abundance. There is no paper money.

Banking.—1. There is not any private bank in the Colony. A public bank has been established in Nassau since 1836; it originated in a savings bank, established under an Act of the local legislature in the preceding year. Its transactions during the last two years have been very large. The receipts and payments during the last six years have been as follows:—

Years.	Receipts.	Payments.
	£	£
1859	457,552	436,678
1860	456,582	455,225
1861	574,662	587,617
1862	790,877	773,509
1863	2,128,721	1,988,661
1864	3,585,574	3,413,995

2. The cash balances have increased in proportion. On the 31st December of the same years they were:—

Years.	Amount.
	£
1859	68,361
1860	59,464
1861	44,509
1862	61,691
1863	201,746
1864	373,324

3. In the last two years they have consisted of the following coins:—

	1863.	1864.
	£	£
Gold, English	10,157	34,320
„ American	97,083	178,125
„ Spanish	6,297	25,437
„ French	—	32,937
Silver	88,208	102,504
Total	201,746	373,324

4. The foreign gold was introduced and has been used exclusively for mercantile transactions connected with the blockade-running business. The balance had been reduced on the 30th June 1865 to 252,553*l*.; of this, 45,579*l*., or nearly one-fourth, consisted of monies belonging to the Government and various public boards.

5. The bank allows 4½ per cent. upon fixed deposits, and charges 6 per cent. upon loans. It has yielded a small surplus to the Government during the last eight years, viz.:—

Years.	Amount.
	£
1857	300
1858	200
1859	—
1860	—
1861	—
1862	250
1863	500
1864	1,000

Debts, Bankruptcies, and Insolvencies.—The islands have been remarkably free from commercial crises during the last 20 years, and recourse is seldom had to the bankruptcy court. This was established in 1845. The number of cases tried, and of the liabilities

and assets in each, is shown in the annexed statement. In the 20 years from 1845 to 1864 only four cases of bankruptcy and seven of insolvency came before the court, the total liabilities in which were only 8,251*l.*

NUMBER of CASES brought before the COURT OF BANKRUPTCY in each YEAR from 1845 to 1864.

Years.	Bankruptcies.	Insolvencies.	Liabilities.	Assets.
			£	£
1845 to 1850 -	—	—	—	—
1851 - -	1	—	1,582	2,827
1852 - -	1	—	4,852	—
1853 - -	—	—	—	—
1854 - -	—	1	85	24
1855 - -	—	1	99	8
1856 - -	1	—	204	14
1857 - -	—	1	906	303
1858 - -	—	3	355	89
1859 - -	—	1	44	4
1860 - -	—	—	—	—
1861 - -	1	—	124	135
1862 - -	—	—	—	—
1863 - -	—	—	—	—
1864 - -	—	—	—	—
Total -	4	7	8,251	3,404

2. In the Court of Common Pleas, in which all actions not exceeding 20*l.* are cognizable, the number of causes since the constitution of the court in 1858 has been :—

Years.	Debts.	Trover and other Causes.	Total.
1858 - -	329	23	352
1859 - -	506	31	537
1860 - -	574	33	607
1861 - -	616	15	631
1862 - -	534	44	578
1863 - -	718	42	760
1864 - -	817	61	878

3. The blockade-running trade has not been accompanied with any bankruptcies or insolvencies within the Colony, but it has been attended with a considerable increase of petty debts.

12. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

1. The nett revenue of the four years 1857–60, including 6,266*l.* derived from loans, amounted to 135,591*l.*, and averaged 33,898*l.* a year. (See Appendix, No. 27.) The expenditure during the same period, including 2,696*l.* of debt repaid, amounted to 135,533*l.*, and averaged 33,884*l.* a year. The annual financial transactions since that period have been :—

RECEIPTS.

Years.	Nett Revenue.	Loans.	Total.
	£	£	£
1861 - -	35,541	13,376	48,917
1862 - -	39,356	7,775	47,131
1863 - -	67,906	—	67,906
1864 - -	102,024	—	102,024

BAHAMAS.

EXPENDITURE.

Years.	General.	Repayment of Debt.	Total.
	£	£	£
1861 - -	49,959	—	49,959
1862 - -	41,831	—	41,831
1863 - -	44,541	8,868	53,409
1864 - -	63,718	34,918	98,636

2. The chief object for which a debt was incurred in the years 1859 and 1861–62 was the erection of an extensive and commodious hotel in Nassau, which cost up to the close of 1864, 19,804*l.* This was constructed at the public expense, under an Act of the Legislature passed in 1859, for the purpose of offering better accommodation to the annual visitors, invalids, and others from the United States and British North America. Without such an establishment it would have been almost impossible to have provided for the influx of persons connected with the blockade-running trade. The increased revenue derived from the increased consumption, and new taxes imposed during the last two years of that trade, enabled the Government to pay off the whole of the debt, and left a balance of 20,575*l.* in the treasury.

3. The amounts derived from each source of revenue, and expended upon each service, during the eight years 1857 to 1864 are shown in Appendixes, Nos. 28 and 29. A comparison of the years 1860 and 1864 will suffice to show the normal and abnormal state of each.

Sources.	Revenue.	
	1860.	1864.
Fixed :	£	£
Customs duties - - - -	26,467	75,587
Tonnage „ - - - -	1,227	7,457
Anchorage fees - - - -	68	437
Harbour „ - - - -	120	677
Entrance „ - - - -	239	689
Clearance „ - - - -	282	1,190
Auction duty - - - -	252	128
„ tax - - - -	1,769	2,558
Liquor licences - - - -	400	780
Sale of medicines ditto - - -	60	20
Assessed taxes - - - -	219	332
Market rate and tolls - - -	482	1,191
Gunpowder magazine - - -	14	117
Dog tax - - - - -	22	29
Town rate - - - -	2,977	1,071
Sale of condemned vessels - -	12	—
Cart and dray licences - - -	23	38
Wrecking licences - - -	736	213
Billiard saloon tax under 29 Vict. c. 17. -	....	30
Hospital money - - - -	—	534
Tonnage dues - - - -	—	2,774
Registry „ - - - -	—	352
Warehouse charges - - -	—	4,250
Total - - - -	35,368	100,461
Incidental :		
Fees of office - - - -	327	597
Pew rents - - - -	225	998
Interest, Public Bank - - -	—	1,000
Queen's fines - - - -	754	1,966
Post Office - - - -	26	844
Quarantine - - - -	—	251
Miscellaneous - - - -	315	518
Total, gross - - -	37,017	106,637
Deduct drawbacks - -	1,145	4,613
Total, net - - -	35,872	102,024

	Expenditure.	
	1860.	1864.
Departments:	£	£
Civil { Salaries	7,837	14,744
Civil { Contingencies	4,062	1,493
Ecclesiastical	2,916	3,282
Judicial	7,523	12,019
Total	22,338	31,539
Services:		
Pensions	884	1,686
Hospital and paupers	1,520	2,741
Education Board	1,741	1,206
Public Works	2,900	11,838
Other appropriations	6,358	13,179
Total	13,403	30,650
Total, exclusive of debt	35,744	62,194
Debt:		
Interest	1,131	1,524
Capital repaid	—	34,918
Total	1,131	36,442
Total, inclusive of debt	36,875	98,636

4. The classification of civil contingencies has not been the same in the two years. A portion of those in 1860 should have been classed with other appropriations. In 1865 an addition of 25 per cent. was made to the salaries of all the public servants. But a revision of these had taken place between the two years, and an addition had been made to several, while a quinquennial allowance, or a certain increase, varying from five to ten per cent., has been granted retrospectively and prospectively for every five years' service to all officers whose salary does not exceed 600*l.* a year. This allowance amounted in 1864 to 603*l.* 6*s.*

5. The permanent additions made to the charge of each establishment during the years 1861 to 1865 have been—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Governor and Staff	1,150	0	0
Registry of Records	300	0	0
Civil Engineer	400	0	0
Receiver General's Department	1,085	0	0
Harbour Department	90	0	0
Post Office	218	0	0
Auditor	100	0	0
Judicial Establishment	166	0	10
Magistrates	450	0	0
Police	3,921	0	0
Prisons	414	16	6
Ecclesiastical Establishment	1,009	3	4
Education do.	911	5	0
Libraries	108	0	0
Board of Health	150	0	0
New Providence Asylum	200	0	0
Bank	75	0	0
House of Assembly	97	10	0
Miscellaneous	86	11	8
Total	10,932	7	4

BAHAMAS.

6. The following statement will show the amount of revenue received in the several out-islands during the years 1862–64, and of the disbursements in each during the latter year. But these do not represent all the payments on account of the islands, as the salaries of some of the officers and other charges are defrayed at Nassau, by paying to the accounts of officers and contractors in the Public Bank in that city.

Islands.	Receipts.			Payments.
	1862.	1863.	1864.	1864.
	£	£	£	£
Abaco - -	626	816	1,401	694
Harbour Island -	1,615	2,515	2,877	1,232
Eleuthera - -	397	1,009	670	100
Exuma - -	3	2	1	—
Rum Cay - -	70	12	37	—
Long Island - -	17	25	253	7
Long Cay - -	784	2,199	2,984	330
Ragged Island -	36	75	80	1
Inagua - -	2,096	3,825	3,252	673
Total - -	5,647	10,482	11,559	3,040

7. The receipts in some of the islands, and especially at Long Cay and Inagua, are derived from the duties on wrecked goods landed and sold there, which do not enter into the consumption of the locality but are shipped elsewhere, chiefly to Nassau.

8. The extent to which the comparison of receipts and payments is affected by disbursements made in Nassau is shown by the following comparative statement with regard to Harbour Island.

Years.	Receipts.	Disbursements.		
	In Harbour Island.	In Harbour Island.	In Nassau.	Total.
	£		£	£
1858	1,457	26	417	1,343
1859	1,786	29	344	1,273
1860	2,001	06	426	1,232
1861	1,844	16	339	1,055
1862	1,561	25	549	1,274
1863	2,245	54	553	1,307
1864	2,856	1,032	804	1,836
Total -	13,752	5,891	3,434	9,325

Debt.—The Public Debt, which amounted on the 1st January 1863 to 43,786*l.*, was paid off before the close of the year 1864.

Assets and Liabilities.—It is always a difficult task to estimate these. It will be sufficient to state the principal items of each on 31st December 1864.

ASSETS.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Balance on 1st January 1865 - - -	20,575	1	2
Value of Hotel (taken at half its cost) - -	10,000	0	0

LIABILITIES.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Widows and Orphans' Fund - -	12,574	0	8
Police Reward Fund - - - -	700	4	4
Market Fund - - - - -	1,920	2	0
Town and Harbour Rate Fund - - -	7,466	1	11

	£
Voted for New Public Prison, Balance - -	14,370
„ Public Abutments, Estimate - -	6,000
„ New Cemetery, do. - -	2,000

13. *Post Office.*

1. The returns of this department, exhibited in App. No. 30, afford another measure of the increase of trade in the last four years, especially in 1863–64. They are not complete, as they only show the number of letters and newspapers sent out of the Colony. But applying this criterion, the increase of letters and total postal revenue has been as follows:—

	Letters sent out of the Colony.	Total Postal Revenue.
	No.	£
Average of 1855–60	6,789	258
In the year 1861	12,474	499
1862	21,563	795
1863	34,937	1,895
1864	43,903	3,125

2. The Money Order regulations have been extended to the Colony, and a large amount has passed through this channel.

3. The correspondence with the several out-islands that passes through the Government interinsular schooner, which visits the under-mentioned islands monthly, will show the comparative importance of the commercial relations of each with Nassau. The correspondence with the other islands is carried on by private vessels, much to their inconvenience, and does not pass through the Post Office.

LETTERS passing through POST OFFICE in NASSAU in 1864.

Islands.	Sent.	Received.	Total.
Long Island - -	190	225	415
San Salvador - -	68	44	112
Rum Cay - -	135	157	292
Watling's Island - -	43	21	64
Exuma - - -	38	14	52
Crooked Island - -	187	154	341
Inagua - - -	656	667	1,325
Total -	1,317	1,284	2,601

14. *Public Works.*

1. By an Act passed in 1856 the Governor and Executive Council, or a committee thereof, are constituted a Board of Public Works for the Colony, who shall have charge of all public buildings of the Colony, with the exception of those held for an ecclesiastical purpose, and of the public roads and streets in the Island of New Providence; those of the out-islands having been placed in the hands of local commissioners, who, by an Act passed in 1865, have also been charged with the care and maintenance of all public buildings and works in their several districts. The board submits annual estimates for new works and repairs. When votes are passed the monies are placed at its disposal. The civil engineer of the Colony is its executive officer. It has a clerk to conduct its correspondence and accounts. The present committee consists of five members of the Council.

2. Its expenditure, according to the classification in the Blue Book returns, for the last eight years has been:—

	£
In 1857 - - - -	2,705
1858 - - - -	4,073
1859 - - - -	3,070
1860 - - - -	2,900
1861 - - - -	2,401
1862 - - - -	2,609
1863 - - - -	3,571
1864 - - - -	11,838

BAHAMAS.

3. But it is believed that in some of these years sums have been included under the heads of "Departmental Contingencies" and "Other Appropriations," which have been expended by the Board of Works.

4. In the case of extraordinary expenditure for public works of magnitude the Legislature has of late years appointed special Commissioners for each separately, as in the case of the Royal Victoria Hotel, the New Prison, and the New Cemetery in Nassau.

5. The extent of roads in any of the islands of the group is small. In most of the out-islands none have been made of late years, and those which were made at the beginning of the century have fallen into disrepair. In some the inhabitants are beginning to appreciate their value, and to seek for their extension and improvement.

15. *Defences.*

1. For many years past the defences of the islands have been limited to Nassau in New Providence, where the head-quarters of a wing of one of the West India regiments, with a small detachment of artillery, have been maintained at the sole cost of the Imperial Government. Troops have been quartered a long time ago at Harbour Island, where there are the remains of some field works. The military expenditure in the island amounted, in 1864, to 23,756*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, which was about the same as in 1863.

2. A vessel of war has been stationed in the Harbour of Nassau more or less frequently. The commissariat expenditure for ships of war on the station in 1864 was 3,187*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*

3. The western and main entrance of Nassau Harbour is protected by Fort Charlotte, an extensive work, erected at the commencement of the century, on the low ridge of hills running parallel with the harbour at the back of the town, and by an open water battery facing the entrance, *à fleur de l'eau.* The eastern entrance is protected by a small battery, erected a century ago.

4. In 1865 a sum of 6,500*l.* was voted by the Colonial Legislature in order to improve these defences, which are now under consideration by an officer of the Royal Engineers, detached by Her Majesty's Government for this service.

Militia.—1. A few years ago an effective militia existed in the island. By an Act of 1839 it was to consist of 500 men, exclusive of officers, to be formed into one regiment of infantry, and one of field, and another of marine, artillery, the men to be chosen by ballot. By an Act of 1845 it was recited that the militia law of the Colony was then in many respects objectionable, and that it was expedient to amend it, and to place the militia, in accordance with the feeling of the loyal inhabitants, on a more efficient footing; and it was provided that service should only be required for five years at a time from male inhabitants between 18 and 42 years of age, with numerous exemptions; that volunteers should be enlisted; that the force should consist of one battalion of infantry of 385 men, including volunteers, one company of field artillery of 100 men, and one company of marine artillery of 60 men. Sanction was given to the formation of an additional company of 100 rifle or cavalry volunteers.

2. But in 1857 another Act was passed, reciting that it had been found impracticable properly to organize, drill, and keep the battalion of infantry in an efficient state of discipline, and that the other corps authorized by the Act of 1845 constituted a militia force amply sufficient for all the requirements of the island. The said battalion was therefore disbanded.

3. The last ballot for the two artillery companies took place in 1860. But they do not appear to have been mustered for drill, and nothing but their staff continues to exist. A deputy quartermaster-general and a quartermaster of militia still exist. The latter receives a small sum annually for the keep of the arms under his charge. The Colony possesses also four effective field-pieces, presented to it by Her Majesty's Government.

16. *Police.*

1. By an Act passed in 1864 the police force of the Colony was fixed at:—

One inspector, resident in Nassau.
Two serjeants, do.
Nine corporals.
Fifty-two constables of the first class.
Thirty-three do. second class.

2. The distribution of the corporals and constables is as follows:—

—	Corporals.	Constables.	
		1st Class.	2nd Class.
New Providence, Nassau - -	6	40	—
Do. Rural Districts -	—	—	2
Abaco and Cays, 3 Stations -	1	2	3
Grand Bahama - - -	—	—	2
Harbour Island - - -	1	4	—
Eleuthera, 4 Stations - -	—	1	6
St. Salvador - - -	—	—	3
Long Island - - -	—	—	3
Exuma - - - -	—	—	3
Rum Cay - - - -	—	—	2
Watling's Island - - -	—	—	1
Long Island - - -	—	—	3
Crooked Island - - -	—	—	1
Fortune Island (Long Cay) -	—	2	—
Acklin's Island - - -	—	—	1
Inagua - - - -	1	2	—
Berry Islands - - -	—	—	1
Biminis - - - -	—	1	2
Total - -	9	52	33

3. At stations where there is no stipendiary police magistrate, the constables are under the supeintendence of the local justices of the peace.

17. *Institutions.*

1. *Savings' Bank.* Established in Nassau by local Act in 1835. Number of accounts open at close of 1863, 112; opened in 1864, 38; closed in the same year, 10; open at close of 1864, 140. Amount deposited in 1864, 2,655*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*; withdrawn, 94*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*; remaining on 31st December, 4,219*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*

2. *Public Library and Museum.* Established in Nassau by local Act in 1847. Under management of trustees, aided from Colonial funds.

3. *Public Libraries.* Established by local Acts at Dunmore Town, Harbour Island, in 1854; at Mathew Town, Inagua, in 1855; and at New Plymouth, Abaco, in 1862. Managed by trustees, aided from Colonial funds.

4. *Agricultural Society.* Incorporated in Nassau by local Act in 1854; dormant for many years; revived in 1865; aided from Colonial funds.

5. *Bahama Institute.* Incorporated in Nassau by local Act in 1854; dormant since 1863; revived in 1865.

6. *Fire Brigade.* Established in Nassau under local Act of 1860. Paid from Colonial funds.

7. *New Providence Asylum.* Established in Nassau under a local Act of 1819 as a "Poor House Establishment," enlarged and gradually adapted for use as an infirmary and an asylum for lunatics and lepers. Placed by an Act of 1845 under a Board of three Commissioners, who were also charged with the administration of all matters connected with the support of the aged and infirm poor on the several out-islands, the stipendiary and other justices of the peace being ex-officio guardians of such poor in their respective districts. Supported entirely by Colonial funds. The executive officers consist of a non-resident physician and a resident superintendent.

Expenditure (exclusive of extension and repair of buildings):—

	£		£
In 1857 - - -	851	In 1861 - - -	1,620
1858 - - -	1,275	1862 - - -	1,490
1859 - - -	1,325	1863 - - -	1,823
1860 - - -	1,520	1864 - - -	2,741

The expenditure in the last year was partially met by receipts on account of seamen patients.

BAHAMAS.

8. *Public Dispensary.* Established in Nassau under a local Act of 1846. Small salaries are provided from Colonial funds for a keeper and medical attendant. Medicines to be supplied to the poor at prime cost.

9. *St. Andrew's Society.* Established in Nassau in 1798. This has become a charitable institution, without distinction of nationality.

10. *Provincial Grand Lodge of Freemasons.* Established in Nassau under the Registry of the United Grand Lodge of England.

11. Among the religious societies in Nassau may be mentioned the Bahama Church Society, and similar societies connected with the Wesleyan and Baptist Congregations, and the Bahama Auxiliary Bible Society.

12. The above enumeration does not pretend to be complete, but it will suffice to show that Nassau at least is not wanting in several of those institutions which serve to mark its social and educational standard.

18. *Works on the Bahamas.*

1. The works which afford any valuable and interesting information regarding the Bahamas, exclusive of brief and imperfect articles in encyclopædias and geographical dictionaries, brief notices in the several histories of Columbus, some of the local almanacs, 1848 to 1862, and fugitive pieces in periodicals, are few in number, and all of distant date, viz.:—

Memoirs of Peter Henry Bruce.	London, 1732.
Catesby's Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahamas.	London, 1770.
McKinnen's Tour in the West Indies.	About 1800.
Montgomery Martin's History of British Colonies.	London, 1834.
Reports of Mr. Harvey, Out-Island Civil Engineer, 1856–57.	1858.

Governor Gregory's Report; also, accompanying the Blue Book Report of 1849, is a comprehensive and valuable record of the state of the islands at that date.

19. *Conclusion.*

1. An attempt has been made in the foregoing report to confine within as brief a space as possible the information necessary to give a clear and tolerably full view of the physical features, past history, and present condition of the Bahama Islands.

2. As the last four years, 1861–64, embrace the period of the recent civil war in America, which gave rise to an extraordinary and abnormal trade between Nassau and the cotton producing States of the late Confederacy, it has become necessary to extend the review of several commercial and social branches of inquiry over a longer period than would otherwise have been requisite, in order to ascertain the ordinary normal condition of the Colony, and to examine the effects of this transitory trade upon it. The commencement of the year 1865 witnessed the termination of the struggle in the United States. The trade of the Colony soon relapsed into its ordinary channels, but it was considerably affected during the greater portion of the year 1865 by the derangement and plethora remaining from this period of excitement.

3. The means are also afforded in this report of tracing and measuring the future development of the productions, resources, and commerce of the islands, to which its inhabitants must look for a continuance of many of the improvements and comforts with which they have become familiar through the stimulus given to employment and profitable enterprise during the last five years.

RAWSON W. RAWSON,
Governor.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor EYRE to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 73.)

SIR, King's House, Jamaica, July 13, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from the President of Turks Islands, forwarding the Blue Book for that Colony for the year 1864 accompanied by his report thereon.

2. These documents shew on the whole a satisfactory and progressive state of things in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P. (Signed) E. EYRE.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 71.

SIR, Government House, Grand Turk, June 17, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1864.

2. Owing to the absence on leave of the Chief Justice and the employment of my private secretary in the Colonial Secretary's office, acting for Mr. McIntosh who temporarily fills Judge Duncombe's appointment, a good deal of additional work has been thrown on Mr. Lowe and myself, and the Blue Book returns have only now reached me.

3. In the midst of a Session of the Legislative Council, where my constant attendance is imperative, I have not now the desirable leisure to draw up a very full report to accompany the Blue Book for last year, yet I am anxious no longer to delay its transmission to Downing Street.

4. Under these circumstances I purpose to largely avail myself of certain passages in my speech when recently opening the second session of the fourth Legislative Council of these Islands; and I feel less hesitancy in adopting this ready course, as although I might convey the information to your Excellency clothed in different phraseology, I could not present you with a more truthful picture of the past and present state and of the future requirements of the Colony and people.

Financial and Commercial.

5. Upon examination of the revenue returns for the year 1864 your Excellency will find that, as compared with 1863, I have reason to congratulate the Colony on its renewed and increasing prosperity.

6. The receipts from import duties in 1863 were 3,870*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*, those for 1864 amounted to 5,243*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, giving an increase for the latter year of 1,372*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* The receipts from "other sources" were in 1863, 2,926*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, and in 1864, 2,138*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, exhibiting a decrease of 787*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, to which, adding a falling off in export duty of 15*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, gives a total of 803*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* Deducting this from the increase shown above, we have a nett increase from all sources of general revenue, amounting to 569*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* But a sum of 650*l.* was in 1863 transferred to that revenue from the Crown fund, which has not in 1864 been called upon to contribute anything; so that adding that amount to the nett increase we can show a *bonâ fide* improvement in the general revenues for 1864 of 1,219*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*

7. That amount, though not very large, yet, from its nature, is satisfactory, and on examination of the statistical tables I have had prepared, the grounds for congratulation will be more apparent; thus:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The value of imports in 1864, was - - -	70,199	0	3
„ in 1863, was - - -	45,183	3	10
Increase in 1864 - - - - - -	25,015	16	5

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

	£	s.	d.
The value of exports in 1864, was - - -	54,070	15	3
„ in 1863, was - - -	34,095	11	0
Increase in 1864 - - - - -	19,975	4	3

8. The several countries from which the principal increase in imports was derived were Great Britain, Bermuda, Jamaica, St. Thomas, St. Domingo, and the United States of America. The increase for 1864 to and from these several countries, compared with 1863, is shown as follows:—

Countries.	Imports from.									Exports to.								
	1863.			1864.			Increase.			1863.			1864.			Increase.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Great Britain	1,868	3	10	13,417	8	0	11,549	4	2	——			1,627	18	10	1,627	18	10
Bermuda -	256	2	3	1,499	10	7	1,243	8	4	——			——			——		
Jamaica -	128	3	10	1,861	3	5	1,732	19	7	——			——			——		
St. Thomas -	4,639	18	8	11,199	14	0	6,559	15	4	923	2	1	4,012	17	4	3,089	15	3
St. Domingo -	5,959	11	11	9,544	0	1	3,584	8	2	2,245	11	1	6,799	3	10	4,553	12	9
United States -	21,621	5	2	26,725	1	7	5,103	16	5	20,434	14	1	30,953	1	8	10,518	7	7
Total £	34,473	5	8	64,246	17	8	29,773	12	0	23,603	7	3	43,393	1	8	19,789	14	5

Minor differences to and from other countries, with a decreased importation from Cuba and Hayti, bring out the result, as above stated, of a considerable increase in the value of both imports and exports for 1864, over similar transactions during the previous year.

9. Turning now to our staple export of salt, it will be found that in 1863 the quantity shipped was 1,434,230 bushels, valued at 21,578*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, and that during 1864 1,252,186 bushels were shipped, of the value of 29,726*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*, so that although the quantity exported was less by 182,044 bushels, yet the value realized for the lesser export was increased by 8,147*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* I think, then, that your Excellency will agree with me that among the many advantages and benefits conferred on the salt taker by the ordinances converting the tenure of their property from leasehold into freehold, this is not one of the least; for it is without doubt that, deprived of the boon thus bestowed by Her Majesty's Government, a continuance of low prices and consequent distress would have been the result of the past year's transactions.

10. A number of salaries and other charges were transferred from the Crown Fund and placed on the Estimates of General Expenditure for 1864. From this cause and others of minor importance, the expenditure of 1864 exceeded that of 1863 by 1,326*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, which, together with 900*l.* paid in liquidation of the Public Debt, gives a total increased expenditure of 2,226*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* Notwithstanding the absolute necessity for this increase in the general and special expenditure, the pleasing fact remains that, on balancing his books, the Receiver General found that he held on the 31st December last a balance of 2,599*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, available for the services of the year on which we have now entered.

11. The Crown Fund receipts for 1864, including a balance of 571*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* from 1863, amounted to 3,607*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*; of that amount 2,142*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* was expended on useful public works in different parts of the Colony, and the total Public Debt of this dependency of the British crown extinguished by the payment of a further sum with interest of 803*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, leaving of this fund a balance in the Crown chest on the 31st December last of 532*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*

Public Works.

12. Two protecting piers to the western shore of this Island have been completed, and the workmanship very favourably reported on by the Inspector of Public Works; our new market house has been for some time open to the public, and together with the liberal ordinance passed, and the manner in which it has been conducted, has given universal satisfaction. A good beginning has been made to Dean's dock at Salt Cay, the roads and wells kept in excellent repair, Queen's square very greatly improved by being suitably enclosed, and the salt ponds at East Caicos most creditably surveyed and mapped by the Colonial Surveyor, whilst the old and dilapidated

furniture at Government House has been in some instances replaced and in others repaired.

13. The great anxiety of the Secretary of State that, when the contemplated gaol shall be erected, every improvement should be adopted and introduced in the new building which may be suitable to the climate, and which has, after much care and labour bestowed on the subject, been recommended by the Select Committee of the House of Lords, has been the cause for delay in its commencement. The Secretary of State is, however, most anxious that it should not be constructed on an erroneous or insufficient plan. He has therefore been furnished with every particular which it was in my power to supply, together with a plan by the Colonial Surveyor, and he has kindly intimated his intention to procure, if necessary, a totally new plan, devised on the most approved principles for the use and guidance of this Government. In the meantime large quantities of the finest stone are being quarried and prepared, so that there will be little delay in proceeding with this very necessary building after my receipt of the Secretary of State's instructions.

Legislation.

14. During the year 1864 11 Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, and Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to convey Her assent to them all. They are now in print and distributed to those entitled to them, and I need refer very briefly only to their titles, which generally sufficiently explain their import, or to the object contemplated in their enactment :—

No. 1. To promote steam communication between this Colony and the United States of America and the Colony of Jamaica.

No. 2. To amend the several Ordinances passed to provide for the collection of the revenue. This Ordinance permits agents for mail steamers and other persons to board such ships immediately after the revenue officer, and gives permission to persons to board any other ship immediately after the return of the revenue officer to his boat from boarding such ships.

No. 3. Opens the door to practice in our Supreme Court to professional men who may have been duly admitted in any of the superior courts of law in any of Her Majesty's Colonial possessions.

No. 4. To define the authority for the introduction of proposals in the Legislative Council for the appropriation of public money.

Nos. 5 and 10. To regulate the Police of the Colony, and for other purposes connected with its improved organization.

No. 6. Regulates the sale by retail of liquors under what is known as the Wine Licence Act and raises the charge for such licence, in order if possible to suppress tippling and gambling at many of the small shops which were licensed under the small fee formerly charged.

No. 7. To render compulsory the maintenance by the husband of a wife and child, or children, deserted by him, and to compel a father to provide for and support his illegitimate children.

No. 8. Extends the powers of the Supreme Court in cases of appeal from the decisions of Justices of the Peace.

No. 9. The Appropriation Ordinance for the year 1865, and

No. 11. To provide for the management and regulation of the public Market at Grand Turk, Turks Islands.

15. Two or three of these Ordinances are of great importance to the wellbeing of this community, and all of them will be useful if accomplishing the end for which they have been passed. The failure of the West India and Pacific Steamship Company to secure the contract between Jamaica and New York, compelled the directors of that company to withdraw the line of steamers which had, so much to the satisfaction of every one, begun to touch here on their northward and southward voyages. I have not ceased, however, to communicate with your Excellency on the subject, and recently I was informed that the Company which convey the mails between New York and Jamaica are bound to go direct, and the Executive there has no power of sanctioning a deviation, and the consequent delay which going by Turks Islands would occasion without the express sanction of the Legislature. When, however, the West India and Pacific Company shall have perfected their arrangements, I understand the New York line may be resumed, and the opportunity will be afforded me of re-establishing a mode of communication which is so earnestly desired by the mercantile community, and would be so beneficial to the interests of all. In the meantime our swift little mail schooner punctually performs the monthly trip between this Island and St. Thomas.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Population.

16. The Census of 1860 gave a total population of 4,372 souls, in taking which no discrimination of colour was made. During last year the compiled register gives us 179 births, 57 marriages, and 124 deaths, and these may now be considered as very nearly approaching the truth. At my request the acting Colonial Secretary has furnished me with an analysis of the first and last of these returns, which affords the following information:—

BIRTHS.

—	Legitimate.			Illegitimate.			Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Grand Trunk - - -	29	25	54	14	12	26	80
Salt Cay - - - -	11	8	19	3	6	9	28
Caicos - - -	23	31	54	5	12	17	71
	63	64	127	22	30	52	179

DEATHS.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Grand Turk - - -	49	33	82
Salt Cay - - - -	9	10	19
Caicos - - - -	9	14	23
	67	57	124

Of this number 50 were under 5 years, 15 between 5 and 15, 19 between 15 and 40, 16 between 40 and 60, 13 between 60 and 70, and 11 over the age of 70. The principal causes of death are classified as follows:—

From dysentery - - - - -	19
„ ulcerated sore throat - - - -	15
„ common fever - - - - -	12
„ dentition - - - - -	10
„ consumption - - - - -	7
„ dropsy - - - - -	3
„ accidents - - - - -	10
„ extreme old age - - - -	10
„ infantile complaints - - - -	15
„ paralysis - - - - -	1
„ causes not assigned - - - -	22
	124

Education.

17. For the size of this Colony and the number of children under tuition, the liberal vote for the diffusion of general knowledge will stand a favourable comparison with that in other portions of Her Majesty's dominions; 725*l.* were paid from the public funds for salaries during the past year, and 78*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* received from the parents, which has been expended in the purchase of school books and apparatus. The inspector's report informs me that 420 children were on the register, with an average daily attendance in the seven public schools of 266. Although this is a little below the corresponding attendance in 1863, yet the numbers are considerably above the average of the last seven years, which I find was 244. But I cannot but express my regret that, with the exception of the clergy, the senior members of Council, the acting Chief Justice, and the Secretary, no member of this community considered it his duty to encourage both teachers and taught by giving even a partial attendance at the recent examinations. While the absence of

parents and guardians evinced either an apathy or ignorance which, to me, was very painful and discouraging. At Salt Cay there was improvement in this respect, but an impression far other than agreeable has been left on my mind by the deadness and indifference with which both the educated and uneducated in this Colony view the exertions made for the mental and moral improvement of the rising generation, an indifference which, sooner or later, will, I fear, have a very lamentable effect on its inhabitants. I embraced the only constitutional opportunity afforded me when opening the last session of the Legislature of pressing upon the attention of the people the importance of taking a lively interest in the means used for the training of the youthful mind in these Islands. By the education of the youth all are benefited, by the ignorance of such, idle and vicious habits are engendered, and disorder and crime are the legacy of its neglect. Securing a sufficiency of money for carrying forward this method of social improvement is generally the difficulty experienced by other governments; here, such is not the case, but however well the teachers may acquit themselves, the taught will never make progress until they see those to whom they should look for example, taking some pleasure in their advancement, and above all, until the prevailing custom ceases of so frequently removing them from their accustomed form to drive the mule cart, or to be impregnated with natural instead of attic salt. I cannot refrain from mentioning one notable example of the advantages of regular attendance on the means of instruction which I witnessed at Salt Cay, in the case of a boy who evinced in all branches on which the school was examined so immeasurable a superiority over all others, that I purpose recommending to the consideration of the Board of Education the favourable opportunity of selecting him as a pupil-teacher at the principal school, and by so doing encourage others to imitate his example, and parents to discover that other roads to preferment are open to their children than the now apparent acme of their ambition—to own an acre of salt pond or keep a petty shop.

Agriculture.

18. The principal production of the Colony is salt, of which the average quantity for the last five years exported was 1,533,542 bushels per year. The price has ranged from threepence to sevenpence halfpenny per bushel, and last year, as has been already stated, an export of 1,252,186 bushels realized the value of 29,726*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.* to the salt taker. Guinea corn, Indian corn, sweet potatoes, and pumpkins are cultivated for local consumption, while oranges, limes, shaddocks, pine apples, and cotton could be raised in large quantities at the Caicos Islands were the people to exert themselves and a little capital were introduced. Horned stock and horse kind also thrive well there, and would be a source of wealth to many could the necessary labour be procured.

Gaols.

19. The greatest number of prisoners in confinement at any one time in the year 1864, was 26. There were no felonies, but 115 prisoners were committed for minor offences, of whom no less than 91 were re-committals. Forty-eight cases of sickness were reported and one death.

Charitable and Literary Institutions.

20. An almshouse for aged persons is supported by annual grant from public revenues. There were 35 inmates during last year who were carefully tended by a kind matron and servants, daily visited by the medical officer, periodically visited by a Board appointed by the officer administering the government, and occasionally by the President himself. The Wesleyan missionary pays them a weekly visit for conversation and instruction; and, during the lifetime of the late incumbent of St. Thomas, he held a weekly service for the benefit of the inmates of this charity. One public library has been lately established which is open to subscribers of an annual sum of ten shillings each, supplemented by a grant from the general revenue. As the institution advances in age and extends its influence, the latter aid may be judiciously withdrawn, encouraging its establishment in the first instance, but leaving it subsequently to its self-support.

During last year I had the pleasure of inaugurating what is called the "Turks Islands Moral and Social Institute," the objects of which are, 1st—The delivery of a course of lectures on popular subjects during the winter months, tending to sociability and the elevation of morality in this Colony. 2dly. The purchase of moral and religious publications for distribution among those who statedly, or only occasionally attend a place of worship, for the purpose of stimulating them to greater consistency in practice and example; and 3dly. Reaching past such to those uncared for outside wanderers, who now care for none

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

of these things, with respect to whom we are too apt to say, "Am I my brother's keeper?" but who, should they unhappily refuse our proffered help, will not hereafter be able to accuse us of totally neglecting our duty to them. A moderate success has attended my efforts, very ably seconded by the late rector, the Wesleyan and Baptist missionaries, and several laymen who kindly delivered a course of lectures, and who, with some trifling pecuniary subscriptions from others, have enabled our secretary to import by last mail from the Religious Tract Society, London, a selection of tracts and books which we will make use of after the sailing of this month's mail. His Lordship, the Bishop of Nassau, very much approves of the movement, and has, on his recent visit, intimated to the secretary his willingness to become patron of the Institute.

In other respects we have much cause for thankfulness in being permitted to record an average healthy season and a fair share of prosperity to all classes of the community.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Edward Eyre, Esquire. (Signed) ALEX. W. MOIR,
&c. &c. &c. President.

TRINIDAD.

No. 5.

TRINIDAD.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Hon. J. H. T. MANNERS SUTTON to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 137.)

SIR, Trinidad, October 23, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the Blue Book for this Colony for the year 1864, together with the Returns and Departmental Reports specified in the enclosed list.

2. My personal knowledge of the course of events in Trinidad during 1864 is necessarily imperfect, for I did not arrive here until September in that year. But the accompanying Report will, I hope, afford the requisite explanation of the Blue Book and other Returns, and bring under your notice the more important facts disclosed by those Returns.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. T. MANNERS SUTTON.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on BLUE BOOK for 1864.

Trinidad, October 23, 1865.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

1. The export duty, the proceeds of which are appropriated exclusively to immigration purposes, was in 1864 raised from 1*s.* 7*d.* per hogshead of sugar to 1*s.* 11*d.* per hogshead. In all other respects the taxes, duties, &c. levied in 1864 were the same as those levied in the preceding year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The gross revenue of 1864 (207,473*l.*) exceeded that of any former year; the excess over the gross revenue of 1863 (184,377*l.*) was 23,096*l.* The expenditure in 1864 (193,000*l.*) exceeded the expenditure in 1863 (188,981*l.*) by 4,019*l.*, and the gross revenue of 1864 exhibited a surplus over the expenditure in the year of 18,173*l.*; while the gross revenue of 1863 as compared with the expenditure in that year exhibited a deficiency of 4,604*l.*

3. But although these figures correctly represent the sums paid into and issued from the Treasury, they are not true exponents of the revenue proper (*i.e.*, derived from taxation and other ordinary and legitimate sources), or of the Government expenditure proper (*i.e.*, of the Government expenditure for Government purposes) of the year. The

sums total of the receipts and of the expenditure are increased by the inclusion on both sides of the account of the proceeds of the debentures issued by the Government, but on behalf of local commissioners, to whom these proceeds are immediately transferred, together with other items, which are in reality only items of account.

4. The enclosed Returns, marked A. B. C. D., specify these items, but exclude them from both sides of the account, and show the estimated as well as the actual revenue and expenditure for the years 1863 and 1864.

5. According to these Returns the revenue proper of the year 1864 was 181,634*l.*, while the revenue proper of the preceding year, 1863, was 169,753*l.*; and the expenditure for Government purposes in 1864 was 166,815*l.*, while the corresponding expenditure in 1863 was 176,187*l.*

6. The revenue proper, therefore, of 1864 exceeded the revenue proper of 1863 by 11,881*l.* The expenditure for Government purposes in 1864 fell short of the corresponding expenditure in 1863 by 9,372*l.*, and the revenue proper of 1864 exceeded the expenditure in the year for Government purposes by 14,819*l.*; while the revenue proper of 1863 fell short of the expenditure in that year for Government purposes by 6,434*l.*

Public Debt.

7. The "Funded Debt" of the Colony amounted on the 31st December 1864 to 245,923*l.* But credit should be given to the Colony for the sum of 54,462*l.*, which sum had been invested by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury as a sinking fund for the redemption of the loan of 125,000*l.*, guaranteed by Her Majesty's Government in 1852; and deducting this amount (54,462*l.*), the "Funded Debt" was, on the 31st December 1864, 190,461*l.*

8. On the 31st December 1863 the "Funded Debt" was 247,673*l.*, and deducting from this amount the sum 49,829*l.*, which had been then invested by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury as a sinking fund for the redemption of the Guaranteed Loan, the amount of the debt on the 31st December 1863 was 197,844*l.* The "Funded Debt" was reduced, therefore, during the year 1864 by 7,383*l.*

9. But a large part of this debt has been incurred by the Government on behalf of local commissioners for the construction of tramways and other local works. It is true that the proceeds of the debentures issued by the Government for this purpose are paid into the Treasury, but they are immediately transferred by the Government to the local commissioners; and although the credit and honour of the Colony is completely pledged to the holders of these debentures, the debt represented by the debentures does not practically impose any burthen on the Colonial revenue, inasmuch as the ordinances under which the debentures have been issued provide and afford to the Government ample security for the payment, annually, by the localities for whose benefit the debt has been incurred of the sums necessary to pay the interest on, and to repay, by fixed instalments, the principal of the debt.

10. Now the amount of the debentures of this character outstanding on the 31st December 1864 was 80,450*l.*, while the amount of debentures of same character outstanding on the 31st December 1863 was 68,100*l.* Under this head, therefore, there was an addition during 1864 to the debt of 12,350*l.*, but this addition has not imposed practically any additional burthen on the Treasury.

11. On the other hand, the "Funded Debt," for which the Government holds no counter security, or for which the counter security is of doubtful value, amounted on the 31st December 1864 to 110,011*l.*, while on the 31st December 1863 it amounted to 129,744*l.* That part, therefore, of the "Funded Debt" which does impose practically a burthen on the Treasury was reduced during 1864 by the sum of 19,733*l.*

12. Again, the deposits in the Treasury by the savings banks, courts of justice, &c. constitute a Government floating debt, and it is the only floating debt of the Government. The amount of this floating debt varies according to circumstances over which the Government has no control; but as a general rule, subject of course to exceptions, the deposits may be expected to exceed, or at least to equal, the withdrawals. In 1864 the result was in a slightly contrary direction, for the deposits amounted on the 31st December 1864 to 50,706*l.*, while on the 31st December 1863 they amounted to 51,316*l.*, but there was no decrease in the amount of the accumulated cash balances in favour of the Government. On the contrary, these balances had risen on the 31st December 1864 to 60,837*l.* from 48,490*l.*, which was the amount on the 31st December 1863.

TRINIDAD.

13. During the year 1864, therefore,—

	£
The funded debt incurred by the Government for Government purposes was decreased by	19,733
The liabilities of the Government on account of deposits were decreased by	610
The cash balances in favour of the Government were increased by	12,347
The result is equivalent to a reduction of the debt by	32,690
Against which may be placed an addition to the Government debt, incurred for local purposes, and for which the Government holds counter security, of	12,350

Local Revenues.

14. The amount of local revenues collected in 1864 by the municipal authorities of Port of Spain and San Fernando, and by the wardens of the several ward unions into which the rural districts are divided, was 38,751*l.*, and of this amount 28,134*l.* was raised by rates on "houses, mines, quarries, and lands."

15. The house tax levied in Port of Spain by the municipal authorities yielded 3,849*l.* In addition to this house tax, a compulsory water rate of 1½ per centum on the annual rental value of houses in Port of Spain is leviable for the repayment of the sum expended by the Government in constructing waterworks. This last-mentioned rate is not levied by the local authorities, but by the Government (a most inconvenient arrangement), and it is not therefore included in the return of local revenues, but it is a compulsory local tax upon property levied and expended for local purposes. The proceeds of the water rate in 1864 amounted to 1,202*l.*, and the total amount of compulsory local taxes levied during that year in Port of Spain was 5,051*l.*

16. The annual rental value of the houses in the borough is 80,542*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, and the population may be estimated at 19,000.

17. The house tax in San Fernando yielded 935*l.* The annual rental value of houses in the borough is 16,579*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, and the population may be estimated at 4,500.

18. In the rural districts the rates are assessed on the annual rental value of houses, mines, and quarries, and on the fee simple value of lands, estimated at 10*l.* per acre of land cleared and cultivated, and at 10*s.* per acre of uncleared land.

19. The total fee simple value of lands (thus estimated) liable to rates in 1864 was 741,567*l.*, and the annual rental value of houses, mines, quarries, &c. was 53,961*l.* The amount of the ward rates levied and collected in the year was 23,350*l.* The population (including about 10,000 indentured immigrants) of the rural districts may be estimated at 61,000.

20. It is therefore clear that the local taxation for local purposes, whether that taxation be regarded in relation to the value of the property taxed or to the number of residents, is lighter in the towns of Port of Spain and of San Fernando than it is in the rural districts, but this difference must not be regarded as evidence that there is no necessity in the towns for increased expenditure for local purposes. It affords, however, a conclusive argument against any claim for assistance from the general revenue in defraying that expenditure.

Military Expenditure.

21. The military expenditure by the Colonial Government during the year 1864 was 985*l.* the whole of which amount was expended on the barracks at St. James.

22. It was formerly the generally received opinion that the site of these barracks was unhealthy. But the requisite improvements in the drainage and in the supply of water have been completed, and I believe that in a sanitary point of view the barracks at St. James will now bear comparison with any barracks in the West Indies.

Public Works.

23. The works for the improvement of the wharves and quays of Port of Spain, and those for the construction of a system of underground sewerage for the town, have, during the last four years, formed the subject of frequent correspondence and claim some special notice.

These works were in full progress during the year 1864, but they were not nearly completed at the end of the year, and in both cases experience had proved that the estimated cost represented but a small portion of the actual cost of construction.

24. The cost of constructing and completing the works for the improvement of the wharves and quays was originally (in 1858) estimated at 20,000*l.* In 1864, 40,000*l.* had been expended on the works, and the funds appropriated to defray this expenditure were exhausted. Legislative provision was then made for completing, on a modified plan, but at an estimated additional cost of 20,000*l.*, the works, which will, I hope, be finished by the end of the year 1867.

25. The cost of constructing a complete system of undergound sewerage for Port of Spain was, in 1858, estimated at 15,000*l.* On the 31st December 1864 about 6,000*l.* had been expended on the sewerage of one of the six blocks into which the town was divided for sewerage purposes. And the sewerage of this block has been now (in 1865) completed at a cost of 6,515*l.* The amount (8,500*l.*) remaining at the disposal of the Government for constructing the sewerage works in the other five blocks of the town is obviously inadequate for that purpose; and the provision made for the repayment of the Government expenditure on the works by the ratepayers of Port of Spain is also inadequate. Moreover, at the close of the year 1864 the main sewerage pipe was displaced by growing roots of adjacent trees, and grave doubts exist as to the possibility of preventing the recurrence of similar dislocations by the same agency.

The sewerage works, therefore, in Port of Spain are now in abeyance, and I do not anticipate an early recommencement of operations.

26. There are many calls more or less urgent for expenditure in different parts of the island, in the construction or improvement of public works and buildings. Among the most urgent of these calls is that for the erection of a suitable Government House. The cottage which is now, and has been for the last 10 years, temporarily occupied by the Governor is not in good repair. The internal arrangements are inadequate and inconvenient. There is not in it a single reception room, and the accommodation afforded in it is barely sufficient for a small family.

Legislation.

27. The Ordinance No. 8, of the 21st April 1864, rendered vaccination compulsory throughout the Colony.

28. The Report of the Vaccinator General shows that on the 31st December 1864 about 7,000 persons had been vaccinated, and that in more than 5,000 cases the vaccination had been ascertained to have been successful.

29. This result shows at once the necessity for compulsory legislation on the subject, and the extent of the benefits which have already been and will be derived by the public from the operation of the Ordinance.

Legislative Council.

30. In September 1864 the number of unofficial seats at the Council Board was increased from six to eight, and the unofficial members are now more numerous than the official members of the Legislative Council.

But, so far as my experience enables me to judge, this alteration, which was very acceptable to the community, will not deprive the Executive Government of its legitimate influence in the Legislature or prejudice the regular and efficient performance by the Legislative Council of the duties entrusted to that body.

Abstract of Expenditure for Civil Establishment.

31. This list is long, and the aggregate amount of the expenditure set forth is large compared with the population of the Colony.

32. But the duties of the Government of the Colony are very extensive and varied. Moreover, the necessary current expenses here of a gentleman are very heavy. Some of the superior members of the Civil Service are not now, in my opinion, adequately paid; and the salaries of the subordinate officers are not more than sufficient (if they are sufficient) to enable them live in respectability.

33. But it is well worthy of consideration; and my attention has been already directed to the question, whether a saving might not be effected, without impairing the efficiency of the service, by a consolidation of offices.

Savings Banks.

34. The deposits (12,680*l.*) in the savings bank on the 31st December 1864 showed a slight excess over the deposits (10,929*l.*) in the bank at the close of the preceding year. But the whole amount of these deposits is very small compared with the sums expended

TRINIDAD.

in labour in the Colony, and with the opportunities of saving money which the labouring classes enjoy here.

35. Those, however, among the immigrants who save money prefer speculating themselves with their savings to investing them in the savings bank. And it is not, unfortunately, the general habit of the native population (there are, of course, many exceptions) to attempt to lay by any part of their earnings.

Immigrants.

36. The report for the year 1864 of the Agent General of Immigrants gives full particulars of the amount and character of the immigration into the Colony during that year.

37. In that report special reference is made to the number of immigrants absent from the estates to which they are indentured. And the Agent General has adduced figures and calculations amply proving, in my opinion, the importance of applying a remedy to this evil, and of preventing its recurrence for the future.

38. The amended immigration Ordinance of this year (1865) will, I hope, have the effect of decreasing vagrancy among the immigrants. And, on the other hand, the additional facilities afforded by the appointment of an inspector of immigrants for the discovery and correction of negligence or abuse of power among the employers of indentured labour will, no doubt, diminish for the future the number of instances in which the evasion of the indentured labourer is the result of real or fancied injustice on the part of his employer.

39. But evasion from estates by indentured labourers will continue to be easy. And there can be no doubt that judicious and kindly, although firm, treatment of the immigrants is at least as necessary for the interests of the employers as it is for those of the employed.

40. It would be unreasonable to expect that, among the overseers and managers, none could be found who are deficient either in temper, or in experience, or judgment. But there is, I am sure, a general and hearty desire on the part of owners of estates here to deal fairly by the immigrants indentured to their estates. And the relations between the employers and indentured immigrants is, upon the whole, satisfactory.

Education.

41. With regard to the ward schools, I have but little to add to the statements contained in the report of the inspector of schools. It will be observed that the attendance of the pupils at the ward schools is irregular. But this evil is, in my opinion, to be attributed to the apathy of parents rather than to any deficiencies on the part of the schoolmasters; and, but for this apathy, any such deficiencies, if they exist, would be speedily brought to light and remedied.

42. The model schools in Port of Spain (there is one for boys and one for girls) are (especially the girls' school), with the two Normal schools attached respectively to them, very creditable institutions, under very efficient management. The borough school of San Fernando also deserves honourable mention.

43. I feel sincere satisfaction in referring to the report of the principal of the Queen's Collegiate school, and to the result of the examination of six pupils of the school at the Cambridge local examination held in December 1864. It will be observed that all passed. That one obtained the second place in pure mathematics, and specially distinguished himself in applied mathematics and Latin; while two other pupils distinguished themselves in French.

44. The Queen's Collegiate school is open to very young boys, and offers to them careful elementary instruction, while it affords to older and more advanced pupils no less careful and efficient instruction in the higher branches of learning. Indeed, a boy may enter the school, knowing little or nothing, and pursue his studies there under the guidance of highly qualified masters, until he has attained proficiency, either as a classical scholar or as a mathematician, which would ensure him a good position at Oxford or Cambridge.

45. All the above-mentioned schools are component parts of one system. They are open to members of all religious denominations, and are maintained, either wholly or in part, by public money.

46. A Roman Catholic College has been established in Port of Spain, at which the attendance of boys of all ages and classes is large.

There is also a "Convent" for the education of young ladies, and there are schools under the superintendence of Protestant clergymen, in which doctrinal as well as secular instruction is given.

Coins, Exchange, &c.

47. For many years (indeed from 1847 to 1864) a branch of the Colonial Bank was the only banking institution in this Colony. In 1864, however, the International Bank, "Limited," established a branch in Port of Spain, and speedily formed an extensive connexion and business.

48. But while the Colonial Bank was bound, both as a bank of issue and in the conduct of other banking operations, by the terms and conditions of the Act of Parliament by which it is incorporated, the International Bank was bound only by its own memorandum of association, and by the provisions of the Companies Act, under which it has been registered in England, for there was not, in 1864, any general legislative enactment in operation in this Colony restraining or regulating the issue, by any person or number of persons, of promissory notes payable on demand.

49. That this defect in the law should have been permitted to exist so long, and that it should not have been previously taken advantage of, is surprising. It is, however, now remedied, and while both banks (the Colonial and the International) carry on banking operations here, the Colonial Bank is now (in 1865) the only bank of issue in the Colony.

Imports and Exports.

50. The value (883,940*l.*) of the imports in 1864 exceeded that (710,972*l.*) of the imports in 1863 by 172,968*l.*

51. The value (1,101,510*l.*) of the exports in 1864 exceeded that (796,497*l.*) of the exports in 1863 by 305,013*l.* But this excess does not represent a proportionate increase in the productive power of the Colony; it is, to a great extent, attributable to the increased value of the sugar exported from the Colony.

52. The value (426,325*l.*) of the imports from Great Britain alone very nearly equalled that (457,615*l.*) of all the imports from British possessions and foreign countries.

53. In the import trade the United States stand on the list 2nd:

	£
Imports from	179,178
British West Indies do., 3rd:—	
Imports from	73,199
British North America do., 4th:—	
Imports from	57,110
France do., 5th:—	
Imports from	40,690
East Indies do., 6th:—	
Imports from	31,440

54. An examination of the returns of imports will show that Trinidad depends principally on Great Britain for a supply of manufactured goods of every description, importing, however, a considerable quantity of fancy articles, both directly and through the French West Indies, from France. It further appears that the Colony is supplied with flour, salt meat, and tobacco principally from the United States; with salt fish and lumber from British North America; with rice from the East Indies; and with cattle from Venezuela and Porto Rico.

55. An examination of the returns of exports will show that in 1864 the value (911,821*l.*) of the exports to Great Britain alone nearly equalled the value (939,076*l.*) of all the produce of the Colony exported during the year, and was nearly five times as large as that of all the exports elsewhere than to Great Britain.

56. In the export trade Venezuela stands on the list second:

	£
Exports to	61,121
United States do., 3rd:—	
Exports to	41,506
France do., 4th:—	
Exports to	37,851
British West Indies, 5th:—	
Exports to	36,417
French West Indies, 6th:—	
Exports to	10,049

TRINIDAD.

57. The exports to the neighbouring islands, British and Foreign, and to Venezuela, are composed to a great extent of articles of British manufacture previously imported into Trinidad. The value (108,599*l.*) of these exports in 1864 constituted more than one-half the value (189,619*l.*) of all the exports elsewhere than to Great Britain.

Shipping.

58. The returns under this heading show no very marked variation from those of the preceding year.

59. The number of British ships entered in 1864 was 662, of an aggregate tonnage of 98,151 tons. The number of foreign ships entered was 188, of an aggregate tonnage of 36,165 tons.

60. And 673 British ships, of an aggregate tonnage of 98,996 tons, and 183 foreign ships, of an aggregate tonnage of 36,728 tons, were cleared during the year 1864.

61. Of the tonnage thus cleared, British tonnage (two-fifths of which was British colonial tonnage) constituted $\frac{73}{100}$, French tonnage, ditto, $\frac{18}{100}$, United States, ditto, ditto, $\frac{6}{100}$, and the remaining $\frac{3}{100}$ parts comprised ships sailing under 10 different flags.

Agriculture.

62. It appears from the returns under this head that, in 1864, 36,739 acres were under cultivation for sugar, and 14,238 acres (cocoa estates are generally small) under cultivation for cocoa, coffee, and cotton.

63. The value of the produce of the sugar estates exported in 1864 was as follows:—

	£
Sugar	741,652
Molasses	65,671
Rum	6,257
Total	813,580

64. Excise duty was also paid during the year on 193,494 gallons of rum retained for consumption in the Colony, and the value of the rum thus retained for home consumption may be stated at 19,000*l.* I am unable to state either the quantity or the value of the sugar (muscovado) and molasses consumed in the Colony during the year, but it is clear that the gross returns of the sugar estates in 1864 exceeded 23*l.* per acre of the land under cultivation for sugar. The expenses, however, of the cultivation and manufacture of sugar are very heavy.

65. The value of the cocoa, coffee, and cotton (the produce of Trinidad) exported in 1864 was as follows:—

	£
Cocoa	115,681
Coffee	388
Cotton	1,500
Total	117,569

66. Coffee and cotton are cultivated here on a very limited scale. I am unable to state the acreage cultivated respectively for these crops, but the whole of the cotton crop is exported; and the amount of the native-grown cocoa and coffee consumed here is very small.

67. Placing, then, out of consideration the value of the native-grown coffee and cocoa consumed here, and taking the value of the cocoa, coffee, and cotton exported as representing the whole produce of the land under cultivation for these crops, it will be seen that the gross return per acre exceeds 8*l.*; and there is, I think, very good ground for believing that, even in 1864, which was a favourable year for the sugar estates here as regards both the amount of the sugar produced and its value, the net returns of the cocoa estates bore a much larger proportion to the capital invested in and the labour employed on them than that which the net returns of the sugar estates bore to the sums expended and labour employed on them.

68. As improved machinery is set up on a sugar estate, the owner frequently, if not generally, brings into cultivation land previously lying waste or in pasture, and the

increased and apparently increasing value of cocoa has given an additional stimulus to the establishment (generally by small proprietors) of new cocoa plantations.

69. The acreage, therefore, under cultivation, both for sugar and for cocoa, is steadily increasing.

70. I am not competent to institute any comparison between the present system of cultivation and manufacture on sugar estates and that which formerly prevailed here, but it is clear that improvements in both respects have been for some years at least continuous, and that they are now in progress.

Grants of Land.

71. The revenue derived in 1864 from the sale of land was very small, but the grants of land by the Crown in 1864 represent, I fear, very inadequately, both in number and extent, the lots of Crown land of which possession was taken during the year.

72. "Squatting" has grown up into a system here, and has become a serious evil, not only, or indeed principally, on account of the loss of revenue which it entails, but from the lawless habits which it engenders.

73. It is difficult to devise a satisfactory mode of dealing with this evil, especially as it is of long standing and mature growth, but the subject is and has been for some time under my consideration.

Gaols and Prisoners.

74. The Royal gaol, to which the convict depôt and the five licensed prisons are subsidiary, is clean, well ventilated, and under efficient superintendence.

75. But the prison contains only 98 cells, affording accommodation on an emergency for 294 prisoners, while the average number in 1864 of prisoners in the Royal gaol was 229, and at one time 279 prisoners were confined therein.

76. In this condition of affairs the enforcement of penal discipline is difficult, and the classification of the prisoners necessarily very imperfect.

77. The internal construction of the Royal gaol is no doubt capable of improvement, but, in addition to these improvements in the gaol, it appears to me that other measures are necessary to provide efficiently for the safe custody, classification, and penal discipline of the large number of convicts sentenced to imprisonment by the Supreme Court and the stipendiary magistrates. I hope to be able ere long to submit a scheme for the remedy of the principal defects in the existing system.

Charitable Institutions.

78. Six institutions of this character, viz., an hospital at Port of Spain, an hospital at San Fernando, a "lunatic asylum," an "asylum for lepers," the "vaccine institute," and the "Coolie Orphan Home," are maintained, either wholly or in part, by the Government, and for each of these institutions a separate report will be found among the documents which accompany the Blue Book.

79. The report on the colonial hospital in Port of Spain in particular furnishes much valuable statistical information, and it affords, I think, conclusive evidence of the wide-spread benefits conferred by the institution on the sick and maimed poor, and of the skill and attention of the medical superintendent.

80. Great care and attention are given to the treatment of the patients in the lunatic asylum. There are defects in the construction of the leper asylum, as well as in its management, and the conduct of the inmates has not been always satisfactory; but the defects in the building are, I hope, susceptible of a remedy; and it should be remembered that the character of the disease by which the unhappy inmates are afflicted renders it very difficult to subject them to the necessary restraint and discipline.

81. The Government contributes to the maintenance of the Coolie Orphan Home, but the management of the "Home" rests with a committee, whose services are gratuitous. This management reflects high credit on the committee, and especially on the gentleman (the rector of the parish in which the Home is situate) to whose personal and active superintendence the success of the institution is mainly to be attributed.

82. There is, in addition to the above-mentioned six charitable institutions, maintained either wholly or in part by the Government, an asylum under the direction of the municipal authorities of Port of Spain, the expenditure on which is defrayed from the borough funds.

TRINIDAD.

83. The under-named five institutions (all in Port of Spain) are maintained entirely by voluntary contributions:—

"An asylum, small, for Protestants."
"An asylum, small, for Roman Catholics."
A "Daily Meal Society."
A "Friendly Society for Members of the Church of England."
And a "Friendly Society for Members of the Wesleyan Body."

84. The Daily Meal Society is under the superintendence of the rector of Port of Spain, but it is open to members of all religious denominations, and is of great service, especially to convalescents discharged from the hospital, and to the aged and infirm. The two friendly societies also are, I believe, extensively useful in Port of Spain.

85. The heterogeneous character of the native population of the Colony as regards nationality of origin, language, and religious creed, presents great obstacles to the establishment of that social harmony and co-operation which are so essential to the welfare and progress in prosperity of a community, but I hope and believe that there is a growing recognition of the fact that members of the same community may differ in origin and in religious questions, and yet co-operate heartily with each other for the promotion of their common interest and of the public good.

(Signed) J. H. T. MANNERS SUTTON.

BRITISH GUIANA.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 168.) Government House, Demerara,
October 13, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the British Guiana Blue Book for the year 1864, and to submit the following observations as my Report thereon.

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The revenue for 1864 was 311,524*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* against 266,170*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* in 1863.

The increase was chiefly in the customs and rum duties.

The expenditure in 1864 was 270,344*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* against 267,291*l.* 11*s.* in 1863. The cost of immigration was 38,442*l.* 6*s.* in 1864 against 32,052*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* in 1863.

The charge for the Public Debt was greater in 1864 by 3,579*l.*, owing to the increase in the Sinking Fund consequent on the instructions of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury.

3. *Public Debt.*

The aggregate amount of the Colony debt at the end of 1864 was 593,616*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, of which 263,300*l.* is secured by planters' notes payable with interest for immigration liabilities. Of the remainder, 250,000*l.* is the Imperial Guaranteed loan, towards the redemption of which upwards of 100,000*l.* has been already invested in 3 per cent. consols, while, under the operation of the present Sinking Fund, there can be no doubt that ample provision has been made for the liquidation of all the bonds at maturity. This fact may be interesting to those who are apprehensive on the subject of Colonial guarantees.

There is likewise a sum of 25,000*l.* due to the Imperial Government, being the unliquidated balance of a loan of 170,000*l.* granted in 1848 and 1849; of this, 145,000*l.* has been repaid, and the remaining 25,000*l.* will be paid off in all probability before it matures, which will not be till 1st July 1868.

The remaining 55,000*l.* is held chiefly in the Colony, and was raised for public works.

The Riot Compensation bonds, amounting to about 45,000*l.*, issued in 1856, have all been paid off. I can have little doubt that this exposition of the state of the Public Debt will be deemed satisfactory.

4. *Public Works.*

The chief expenditure under this head was for the sea wall for the protection of the city of Georgetown from the encroachments of the sea. The progress of this work has been steady. The principal expenditure for buildings has been upon police barracks in Georgetown, on the county gaol, and on the hospital, all which institutions will, when completed, do great credit to the Colony.

5. *Legislation.*

Thirty-five ordinances were enacted during the year; of these, one of the most important was the ordinance consolidating and amending the law relating to immigrants. The new ordinance has now been some time in operation, and has worked well, although it has been found necessary, and I have no doubt it will be found necessary hereafter, to legislate further on this most important subject.

The disastrous fires which occurred in the city of Georgetown in the months of April and July rendered legislation necessary, the chief object of which was to secure the widening of the streets and the erection of a river wall. Several other valuable ordinances have been passed, by which recent English Acts of Parliament have been adapted to local requirements, such as the laws regarding trading companies and merchant shipping.

6. *Education.*

I think that the report of the inspector of schools may be considered to be on the whole satisfactory. There is a steady increase in the number of children attending school, and it is most gratifying to me to be able to report that the London missionaries and Congregationalists who, until recently, have declined to co-operate with the Government in the educational arrangements, have in some instances, which are likely to be followed, consented to accept aid from the Board of Education. The number of pupils in the books was, in 1862, 7,627, in 1863, 8,251, and in 1864, 9,246. A proportionate increase has taken place in the average attendance.

7. *Imports and Exports.*

The value of the goods imported in 1864 was 1,508,560*l.* against 1,121,979*l.* in 1863. The chief increase was under the head "linens, cottons, and woollens," and other articles paying the ad valorem duty of 10 per cent. The value of this class of imports was in 1863, 289,259*l.*, and in 1864, 497,031*l.* It may be proper to remark that of this latter aggregate amount the value of goods from the United Kingdom was 455,168*l.*

The value of the exports in 1864 was 1,845,351*l.* against 1,679,385*l.* in 1863. Of this aggregate the sugar exported was 1,319,625*l.*; rum, 247,507*l.*, and molasses, 56,870*l.*, being for the produce of the sugar cane, 1,624,002*l.* Of cotton wool, which may almost be considered a new branch of industry, as the cultivation was almost totally abandoned many years ago, there was exported, in 1863, 52 bales, value 1,444*l.*, and in 1864, 239 bales, value 6,907*l.* 10*s.* The export of "balata," also a new industry, has increased from 96 packages, value 280*l.*, in 1863, to 351 packages, value 8,000*l.* in 1864. The exports of hardwood increased from 27,306*l.* in 1863, to 62,239*l.* in 1864. Foreign sugar, rum, molasses, and cotton, of the value of about 26,000*l.*, is included in the exports, and about 90,000*l.* of goods were re-exported, chiefly flour, rice, beef, and pork, butter, candles, &c.

8. *Gaols and Prisons.*

The only remark that I deem it necessary to make under this head is that the Board of Prisons endeavour to the utmost extent practicable to adapt the system of management of these institutions to that followed in the United Kingdom.

9. *Concluding Remarks.*

It is satisfactory to me to be able to report that the condition of the Colony is on the whole very far from unsatisfactory. It is highly probable that there is not a single sugar estate that pays anything like interest on the capital originally expended on it, or on its estimated value 30 or 40 years ago, but I have little doubt that those who have purchased property since 1848 are on the whole receiving a fair return for their investments. Wages

BRITISH GUIANA.

are moderate, and the result of the Coolie and Chinese immigration under indenture is that labour is tolerably abundant.

It is, however, a great mistake to imagine that labourers can earn such wages as many have been led to believe, or as they were able to exact some years ago, when the planters were completely at the mercy of the labourers. The labourers on a sugar estate may be divided into two great classes, those who work in the buildings and those who work in the field, in weeding, cane cutting, digging trenches, and similar work. The field work is almost exclusively performed by tasks, and I have no reason to doubt that a task is performed in four to five hours. That able-bodied men and women, accustomed to a tropical sun, can and do perform two tasks a day occasionally is beyond doubt, but I do not believe that the average earnings of coolie and Chinese labourers in the field exceed 6*s*. a week. In the buildings, the wages, owing to the nature of the work, is not regulated so much by the task as in the field. The earnings may be stated at from 1*s*. to 2*s*. a day, though of course children and other ineffectives do not earn so much as the lower rate. Boiler men and other of the more skilled workmen get 2*s*. to 1*s*. 8*d*., but these being few in number in proportion to the others, I should not place the average, even of adults, higher than 1*s*. 3*d*. a day.

I have made these remarks because I feel assured that no real good can result to the Colony from exaggeration as to the rate of wages, but I must at the same time further observe that the indentured labourers seem quite contented. I can submit no better proof of this fact than the general custom which prevails among both coolies and Chinese to enter into new indentures on receiving the customary bounty of $50 for a five years' indenture. The desire which prevails among the planters to obtain the services of immigrants who have been acclimated affords a strong inducement to treat their indented labourers with strict justice.

The creole population is, and I fear must continue to be, a source of much anxiety. I trust, however, that the legislation which has already taken place, and that which is contemplated, will eventually lead to a marked improvement in the sanitary condition of the villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

BARBADOS.

No. 7.

BARBADOS.

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MUNDY to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 411.)

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbados, October 18, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Barbados for 1864.

Blue Book, 1864.

2. As I was not in the Island during the year to which it relates, I have been dependent for the matter of this Despatch upon the information contained in the book before me, or furnished from other official sources.

Taxes, Duties, Fees.

3. The principal taxes levied in the Island are customs duties on imports, tonnage dues, an excise duty on rum consumed in the Island, licences for the sale of liquors, and a tax on land, commonly called the Militia tax.

The tariff of import duties, which was revised and renewed for three years in 1862, remains unaltered, but it was found necessary in the course of the past year to impose an additional rate of 25 per cent. upon all customs duties to meet an extraordinary expenditure on Public Works. Between the 14th of June, the date of the Act, and the 31st December, this rate added £5,154 17*s*. 8*d*. to the ordinary revenue.

Tonnage Duties.

By the trade Act of 1852 the tonnage duties were reduced from 2*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.* per ton measurement, to be paid on the bulk discharged. The exemptions are, steam vessels carrying mails, vessels importing coals for the use of mail steamers, and foreign vessels of war, vessels with cargoes of ice and vessels arriving in distress. The only change under this head in 1864 was a modification of the law in favour of whaling vessels arriving here and landing oil for reshipment, by which the option is given of paying the ordinary tonnage, or bonding the oil and paying a moderate rate per barrel.

Excise Duty on Rum.

A duty of one shilling a gallon on rum of or under the strength of 25 by the bubble hydrometer, and an additional penny for every higher degree of strength, is levied on all rum sold for consumption in the Island. This tax appears to have been first imposed in 1855 to meet the deficiency caused by the extraordinary expenditure during the prevalence of epidemic Cholera in the preceding year, and has since been maintained as a permanent source of income. It has, however, fallen from 16,872*l.* in 1858, to 11,873*l*, in 1864. This decrease is, I think, chiefly owing to the want produced by the protracted drought of the latter year, which by lessening the power of the labourers to purchase spirits reduced the demand, whilst at the same time, in consequence of the comparatively high price of molasses in 1864, the manufacture of rum was considerably less than usual.

Militia Tax.

Under the old law of the Island every owner of a certain quantity of land, or of a house or houses of a certain yearly value, was compelled to send one able-bodied man properly accoutred to serve in the militia in respect of every 30 acres of land, and of every house or houses of the yearly value of 100*l.* late currency, possessed by him; but in the year 1839 an annual money payment was substituted for personal service, which money payment was, by an Act passed in 1851, fixed at 8*d.* on each acre of land above one, and 2*d.* in the pound on the rental of every house of not less than the value of 10*l.* per annum. The proceeds of this tax, however, appear always to have been applied to the revenue for general purposes.

The only other sources of income are careenage dues, market tolls, postage, and fees and fines of Court and office, which latter average from 4,000*l.* to 5,000*l.* a year.

There is no export tax.

The table of exemptions from import duties is large, but the necessaries of life are not unduly taxed.

Fees.

In the fees payable into the Colonial treasury, no change has been made during the past year, but among those appropriated to the use of the officers receiving them, the scale of remuneration for duties performed by the Registrar and Admeasurer of Shipping under the second part of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, was, by an Act of the local Legislature passed on the 15th January 1864, assimilated to that prepared by the Commissioners of Customs, and thereby considerably reduced. A new scale of constables' fees for levying distresses for parochial rates has also been established.

4. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

Years.	Customs.			Other Sources.	Total.
	Imports.	Tonnage.	Warehouse Rent and Fines.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1855	29,654 10 2	9,810 4 0	758 18 4	28,714 7 2½	68,937 18 8½
1856	36,593 0 9	11,427 13 7	694 1 7	36,346 19 10¾	85,061 15 9¾
1857	37,759 3 3	9,826 6 0	804 9 6	34,202 16 1½	82,592 14 10½
1858	46,907 17 8	13,898 0 4	310 19 3	35,798 2 0	96,914 19 3
1859	43,225 5 1	11,114 15 4	515 12 11½	32,739 12 4½	87,595 5 9
1860	43,679 10 5	11,313 3 2	556 3 5	39,203 16 2½	94,752 13 2½
1861	42,035 18 8	12,272 0 9	396 3 6	43,345 1 4	98,049 4 3
1862	40,864 0 11	10,311 2 4	254 16 10	42,252 2 5½	93,682 2 6½
1863	40,132 11 9	10,532 17 4	280 10 7	51,626 1 11½	102,572 4 7½
1864	45,979 4 7	10,567 12 11	188 17 4	50,655 11 0	107,391 5 10

BARBADOS.

From these figures it appears that the gross Revenue of the Colony has advanced within the last ten years from 68,937*l.* to 107,391*l.*: it must, however, be observed that in this return are included considerable sums from time to time obtained on loan to meet an extraordinary expenditure, and that the totals on both sides of the account have also recently been increased by items in connexion with the Bridgetown waterworks; the actual receipts from the ordinary sources of Revenue being only 58,824*l.* in 1855, and 95,413*l.* in 1864, showing an absolute increase of 36,589*l.* For this great increase, the excise duty on rum, and the system of licences to retail liquors, which were both regulated by law in 1855, and the general growth of trade as marked by the augmentation of customs receipts, are sufficient to account.

Expenditure.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1855	62,915	8	10½
1856	70,575	14	10¼
1857	80,970	6	10½
1858	87,891	8	4
1859	80,352	19	5½
1860	110,873	1	4
1861	115,895	15	6½
1862	93,461	7	3½
1863	104,795	9	10
1864	104,384	2	2

The expenditure has risen from 62,915*l.* in 1855, to 104,384*l.* in 1864. It is, however, to be understood that this sum does not represent the permanent fixed expenditure of the Colony, but includes several extraordinary items, such as the payments on account of the waterworks amounting to some 6,500*l.*; 5,900*l.* to the Colonial Bank in payment of public debt; 10,995*l.* for works and buildings, and some other items of an unusual nature, so that the actual increase to the fixed establishment of the Colony is by no means so large as at first sight appears. The principal items of increase in the fixed expenditure of the Island during the period embraced in the above table, are the following:

1st. Civil establishment, about 1,000*l.*, the office of Auditor General and Superintendent of Public Works, at salaries of 700*l.* and 500*l.* respectively, having been created, and an addition of 125*l.* per annum made to the Harbour Master's allowance; while on the other hand the salary of the Treasurer has been reduced by 500*l.*

2dly. Gaols and prisons show an increase of upwards of 3,000*l.*

3dly. The cost of maintaining the Lazaretto, which was 432*l.* in 1855, amounted last year to 1,270*l.* It is difficult to ascertain whether it be owing to the spread of leprosy, or to the additional comfort of the asylum, springing from the more liberal arrangements which have of late years been humanely and wisely sanctioned by the Legislature, but the building will not now contain all who are anxious to obtain admission; and the necessity for its extension will shortly be brought to the notice of the Legislature.

4thly, Education. The salary of the Inspector of Schools has been raised from 100*l.* to 300*l.* per annum; the Legislative grant has been increased 1,000*l.* per annum, and that to the central school 288*l.*

5thly. In the ecclesiastical establishment there is an increase in the number and salaries of curates, amounting to 3,000*l.* per annum.

6thly, Militia. Up to 1859 the expenditure under this head was merely nominal, but from the calling into existence of the Yeomanry cavalry and rifle corps in that year, a large item of expenditure sprung up, and within the last six years upwards of 11,000*l.* has been spent in attempts to establish a protective force, which has moreover required and will I fear require the most strenuous efforts of the executive government to maintain.

7thly. Fire Brigade. The main cost of this most useful establishment is borne by the parish of St. Michael, but it also forms a new charge upon the general revenue of about 350*l.* per annum.

8thly. General Hospital. The grant for the maintenance of the hospital, which has been for some years virtually a public institution, was until 1859 only 1,041*l.* per annum; it is now 2,000*l.*, beside 300*l.* per annum for salaries of a chaplain and three medical officers.

9th. The recent arrangements by which the signal stations have been handed over to the Colony involve a further fixed charge on the expenditure.

10th. Works and Buildings. On the Mole Head and Careenage, including the cost of the steam dredge, blasting operations, and repair of wharves, there has been expended within the last ten years a sum of upwards of 60,000*l.*; and on other public works, including Government House, which was nearly rebuilt, and the female prison at Glendairy, upwards of 40,000*l.* within the same period; to the purchase of land for the improvement of the town after the occurrence of the fire in 1860, nearly 50,000*l.* has been appropriated within the last five years.

5. *Comparative Yearly Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.*

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1863 - - -	102,572	104,795
1864 - - -	107,391	104,384

From the comparative yearly statement of the revenue and expenditure of 1863 and 1864, the revenue of the latter year appears to have been nearly 5,000*l.* in excess of that of 1863. Under the heads of Customs, Market Tolls, Stamps on Weights and Measures, Postage, Loans, and Commissions on Money Orders, there is an aggregate increase of 10,394*l.*, while under Careenage dues, Licences, Taxes, and special Receipts, there is a falling off of 5,575*l.* 18*s.* 7½*d.*

In the expenditure there is a trifling decrease.

6. *Local Revenues.*

The subjoined table shows the total amount raised and expended by the Vestries of the several parishes in each of the years from 1860 to 1864 :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1860 - - -	15,893	9	3¾
1861 - - -	15,550	18	7¾
1862 - - -	17,148	7	8¾
1863 - - -	20,613	12	0¾
1864 - - -	19,670	18	10¾

The principal source of revenue for general parochial purposes is a tax on land and rents. There is also, besides the revenues shown in the above table, a tax on land of 9*d.* per acre, of 1½*d.* in the pound on the rental of houses, and a moderate impost on carriages, horses, &c., fixed by law, but collected and apministered by each parish for the repair of its highways, for which service the parishes also receive a supplementary grant from the Legislature. This system is found to work well, and the roads of the Island are excellent. The sum of 6,733*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* was assessed last year as the product of the highway rates, which, with a Legislative grant of 5,450*l.*, made a total of 12,183*l.*

7. *Public Debt.*

In the course of the past year the Public Debt was reduced by the payment of 5,000*l.* to the Colonial Bank, and on 31st December last stood at 17,725*l.* 8*s.* 7½*d.*, of which 15,000*l.* was due to the bank, and 2,725*l.* 8*s.* 7½*d.* to other parties. The balance due to the bank has since been further reduced by 8,000*l.*

8. *Military Expenditure—Militia.*

Under this head it has been usual to show the amount expended in the repairs of the signal stations, but these having, with two exceptions, been re-vested in the Colony, are no longer maintained for military, but for local and commercial purposes. The two exceptions are the station at Queen's House, the official residence of the general commanding, and that at Charles Fort, adjoining the garrison, which are maintained entirely at the expense of the Imperial Government.

The militia may be said to have ceased to exist, no enrolment having been enforced for several years. The Bridgetown rifle corps and the Christ Church and St. Peter's artillery have disappeared, and there is, I fear, great reason to apprehend that on the expiration of the Act providing for the pay of the Yeomanry cavalry, which at present consists nominally of 351 officers and men, the service will be found to have lost its attractions for many who are now members of that corps.

9. *Public Works.*

The new works in hand in 1864 were the female prison at Glendairy, which was handed over to the Executive Government, as already reported, on the 12th August in that year. The total cost of this prison, which is built to contain 140 prisoners, was 10,002*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*

Two hundred and forty feet of wharf wall commenced in 1863 was finished at a cost of 5,555*l.*

The iron swing bridge progresses slowly in consequence of unforeseen difficulties in making the foundations for the piers. The whole estimated cost of the bridge, piers, cylinders for foundation, and excavations was 11,320*l.*, but this will probably be exceeded in consequence of the necessity, which has arisen from the nature of the ground, for importing improved machinery for sinking the cylinders. The excavations for widening the Careenage so as to form a small inner harbour, as also the dredging of the entrance thereto, have been vigorously pushed forward.

The whole amount actually expended under this head in 1864 was 10,995*l.* 17*s.* 8½*d.*, of which 3,116*l.* 3*s.* 4¾*d.* was on the new wharf; 4,285*l.* 15*s.* 7½*d.* on the female prison; and the balance on additions to and repairs of police barracks and other public buildings.

10. *Legislation.*

During 1864, 28 Acts were passed by the Legislature, of which the principal are:—

1. An Act for the Protection of Wives who shall be deserted by their Husbands, as to any Money or Property such Wives may acquire by their own Industry.
2. An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws for the Repair and Improvement of the Highways.
3. An Act to make Provision for Inquiry into the Causes of Wrecks occurring on the Coasts of this Island.
4. An Act to assimilate the Law of this Island relating to the fraudulent Marking of Merchandise to that which prevails in the United Kingdom.
5. Two Acts to amend the Laws relating to Emigration from this Island.
6. An Act in aid of the Revenue of this Island.
7. An Act to amend the Law for the more easy and speedy Recovery of Small Debts.
8. "An Act to amend an Act of this Island entitled 'An Act to amend the Laws "'relating to Emigration from this Island,'" 23rd March 1864.
9. An Act to make Provision for revising the Registers of Voters for the City of Bridgetown, and of the several Parishes of the Island.
10. An Act for vesting in the Commissioners appointed under the Act of the 10th November 1856, the Buildings and Lands of certain of the Signal Stations in this Island, now vested in Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the War Department, and providing for the Establishment and working of the same.
11. An Act to make permanent the Acts relating to the Police Magistrates and their Clerks.

11. *Political Franchise.*

An increase is observable in the number of registered electors, from 1,122 in 1863 to 1,438 in 1864. The general election of 1864 was the first held since the passing of the Act of the 22d July 1863, which, adopting the English practice, provides that such elections shall be upon the view and with the consent of the electors then present, unless a poll be required for the determination thereof. Under the old law a poll was opened in every case.

12. *Council and Assembly.*

The Lord Bishop having left the Island in very bad health in the early part of last year the Vicar-General was appointed to a seat at the Board. In the Assembly Mr. Jones was returned for Bridgetown in the place of Mr. Gill, and Dr. Corbin, for many years one of the representatives of St. Peter's parish, having died on the 29th April, Mr. J. Hampden King was elected to fill his place and continued to serve as such until his acceptance of the office of Acting Colonial Secretary on the 26th November.

13. *Civil Establishment.*

In the Civil Establishment there were few changes. Mr. Holligan having been nominated to administer the Government of St. Kitts, Mr. J. Hampden King was appointed to act

as Colonial Secretary during that gentleman's absence. Mr. Lynch, the Prothonotary Registrar in Chancery, and Clerk of the Crown, having died while on leave of absence in England, Mr. R. Haynes, who had been acting for him, was provisionally appointed to the vacant office.

14. *Pensions.*

The pensions payable out of the general revenue have been slightly reduced by death, and now amount to 307*l.* 10*s.* per annum, while the charges on the Police Reward Fund have increased 134*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* which brings them up to 813*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* This fund consists of a fixed stoppage of one day's pay a month from each man, fines &c. payable to the police as informers, and 500*l.* per annum granted from the Treasury.

15. *Foreign Consuls.*

Mr. P. Kilkelly and Mr. J. W. Atkins were provisionally recognized as consuls for Peru and the Netherlands respectively.

16. *Population.*

The population, which by the census of 1861 was 152,727, is estimated at 163,000 in 1864.

The following is a comparative statement of baptisms and burials for the years 1863 and 1864.

Baptisms.		Burials.	
1863 - -	6,408	1863 - -	3,676
1864 - -	5,793	1864 - -	3,876

Of the children baptized in 1863, 3,560, of those in 1864, 3,193 are returned as illegitimate, and in estimating the increase of population to these should be added many who were not baptized at all.

The marriages have gradually fallen from 1,684 in 1854, the year of the cholera, to 455 in 1864. In 1863 and 1864 more than half the burials were of children under nine years of age.

From its generally uniform temperature, there is probably no climate in the world more favourable to the development of infant life than that of Barbados. The diseases incidental to infancy are never seen but in the mildest types. The disproportionate mortality among children of tender years must therefore be attributed to other than natural causes, and of these the principal is the apparently increasing disinclination to the marriage tie and the consequent neglect of the offspring of illicit intercourse.

17. *Miscellaneous.*

Numerical Returns.—Savings Bank.

There is only one Savings Bank in the Island, but the labouring population is daily becoming more and more sensible of its advantages, and gaining confidence in its management, the number of depositors having increased from 373 in 1863 to 437 in 1864, while the number of persons connected with Friendly Societies which are free from all Legislative control, has decreased from 1,875 to 1,631.

Emigrants.

It has been found impossible to keep an accurate record of the number of emigrants, but the better opinion seems to be that, so far as it has gone at present, emigration has, on the whole, done the Colony no harm.

18. *Education.*

The accompanying statement of the inspector of schools, concerning the schools for the poor in connexion with the Education Committee, again, I regret to say, discloses a very unsatisfactory state of things: Mr. Elliott says: "Throughout the year here reported, "the straitened circumstances of the classes whose children frequent the public schools "have prejudicially influenced the numbers in attendance in a manner not to be mistaken. "The education of their children naturally claims the care of the labouring poor in a

BARBADOS.

" subordinate degree to the feeding, clothing, and housing themselves and their offspring, " and so great has been the pinch experienced almost throughout the twelve months " under consideration, that with many even the absolute necessaries of life have been " with great difficulty procured; and as a consequence an inability to pay school fees " has been very widely felt. The indigence of the parents has not alone through the " lack of means to pay school fees served to diminish the school numbers, but their " poverty has prevailed in many cases so far as to render them unable to provide their " children with the plainest clothing, and has largely interfered also with the regularity " and sufficiency of their meals; in these ways detaining them from school where non- " payment might not have operated as a hindrance."

"The average attendance of children of both sexes in 139 schools was 5,567, and " the number on the registers was 9,435. In 1863 the average attendance was 7,565, and " the number on the registers, 12,460."

"The total population of the island is probably 163,000."

19. *Imports and Exports.*

The following table shows the amount of imports and exports for the last 10 years :--

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1855 - - - -	644,784	790,330
1856 - - - -	841,254	971,028
1857 - - - -	976,306	1,345,361
1858 - - - -	1,325,118	1,468,449
1859 - - - -	1,049,236	1,225,571
1860 - - - -	941,761	984,294
1861 - - - -	923,874	1,075,374
1862 - - - -	913,141	1,067,612
1863 - - - -	878,208	981,142
1864 - - - -	910,081	925,957

20. *Shipping.*

The returns show a reduction in the aggregrate tonnage, but this is confined to foreign vessels. In the British tonnage there is a slight increase in 1864.

21. *Agriculture.*

The subjoined return shows the crops of the Island for the last 10 years.
Return of produce shipped from Barbadoes from 1855 to 1864, inclusive:—

Years.	Sugar.			Molasses.			Rum.		
	Hhds.	Tierces.	Barrels.	Puncheons.	Hhds.	Barrels	Puncheons.	Hhds.	Brls.
1855	37,071	2,221	6,400	12,479	205	481	1,192	446	68
1856	40,431	2,794	10,314	14,810	407	668	1,295	222	
1857	36,582	2,097	7,256	12,704	319	496	159	127	
1858	46,244	3,561	11,277	19,750	457	1,073	945	652	
1859	37,090	2,770	6,067	15,340	381	730	532	468	
1860	39,611	3,348	8,763	17,928	598	1,259	412	528	
1861	46,358	3,355	10,003	17,542	582	1,259	129	616	
1862	42,312	3,198	12,458	15,514	549	995	201	392	
1863	38,862	3,398	9,471 Bags. 1,551 Bags.	14,561	433	453	75	175	
1864	33,391	2,782	5,596 „ 2,028 „	14,985	426	473	75	3	

There are 508 estates in the Island, comprising 90,871 acres, of which 30 have steam engines, the rest windmills. Multitubular boilers, which cause a great saving of fuel, are in almost general use.

The average cost of making a hogshead of sugar at the present day in this Island is about 9*l.*

Far greater economy prevails in every department of estate management.

The steam plough appears to be considered a great success, but until the actual results of a whole year's work can be ascertained it is impossible to speak with confidence. The high price of cotton in 1863 and 1864 led to some extension of its cultivation, but the value of the whole amount exported during the year is returned at 2,915*l.*

22. *Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.*

Sugar is the only manufacture carried on in the Island, and there is no fishing beyond that which is sufficient for the supply of the table.

On the north-east side of the Island is a district which from its hilly character is called Scotland. The existence of mineral products in the Scotland formation has been long known, and the attention of the proprietors of the soil more than once called to the subject by scientific men. But, beyond the collection of the green tar which rises to the surface, nothing has been done, and the quantity hitherto exported has been consequently very small. Within the last few months, however, an agent of a company in the United States, having surveyed the whole of the district above referred to, has entered into arrangements with the proprietors of the soil, with a view to operations on a large scale, from which important results are expected.

23. *Gaols and Prisons.*

I am happy to be able to give a more satisfactory account of the state of the prisons. The following is a comparative statement of the returns for 1863 and 1864:—

	Total No. of Prisoners in Confinement at Michaelmas.	Greatest No. of Prisoners in Confinement at any one time in the Year.
1863 - -	614	709
1864 - -	506	702

On last Michaelmas day the numbers had fallen to 310. The good results anticipated from the recent addition to the prisons of the Island, of one for females at Glendairy, have already been to a great extent realized. The difficulty of which Governor Walker in his last Report expressed himself apprehensive, of providing employment for the female convicts, sentenced to hard labour, has not as yet, I am informed, been experienced. Work is provided for some of their number in making and mending prison clothing, and cooking both for themselves and for the male prisoners; but the greater portion of them are employed in digging marl and reducing the still uneven surface of a portion of their prison enclosure. The Governor of the prison reports that he has thus still some months work for them, but after that the necessity of providing employment for them will demand the attention of the Executive.

24. *General.*

The health of the Island is as usual good, provisions are abundant, and the cane crop bids fair to be the largest ever made.

I have, &c.

The Right Honourable E. Cardwell, M.P. (Signed) ROB. M. MUNDY.
&c. &c. &c.

GRENADA.

No. 8.

GRENADA.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MUNDY to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 247.)

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbados, May 30, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a Despatch from the administration of the Government of Grenada forwarding the Blue Book of the Island with a report thereon from the Colonial Secretary.

2. Mr. Mitchell's report is so comprehensive as to call for few remarks from me.

3. Under the head of agriculture I would wish to explain that, in addition to the large extent of land brought under cotton cultivation, many hundred acres throughout the Island have been redeemed from bush for the growth of cocoa, sugar cane, and ground provisions, for the latter of which, as well as for fruit, a ready market is found in Trinidad. I regret, however, that the present season being so unpropitious, the crops of cotton and sugar will fall far short, it is feared, of the quantity estimated earlier in the year.

4. The labouring population are certainly more industrious than when first I arrived in Grenada, and a class of small coloured proprietors is springing up gradually, buying land and acquiring a stake and interest in the soil, which I must do them the credit to say they cultivate with great care and energy.

5. With regard to the subject of education, I would wish to explain that the Grammar and Normal Schools are now in full operation under a head master, who appears to give much satisfaction, and I have great confidence that the utmost benefit will be derived by all classes from their re-establishment.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) ROB. M. MUNDY.

(No. 39.)

SIR, Government Office, Grenada, May 19, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1864, together with a report thereon, which has been prepared at my request by Mr. Mitchell, the Colonial Secretary. Having so recently assumed the administration of the government I feel precluded from supplementing Mr. Mitchell's very full report with any observations of my own.

H. E. the Administrator of the General Government, Barbados. I have, &c. (Signed) EDWIN D. BAYNES.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Grenada, May 15, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour, in accordance with your Honour's instructions, to transmit to you a report upon the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1864.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

The reduction by Act No. 342, to one half of the original export duty on the produce of this Island for the purposes of immigration and the increase by Act No. 343 to 6*d.* per gallon on the consumption of rum to be applied to the general uses of the Colony, are the only alterations which have been made in the taxes during the year.

Revenue.

The Revenue of 1864 was 20,095*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*, of which 9,670*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* was derived from duties on imports; 792*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* from tonnage; 1,390*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* from licences to retail spirits and to porters, boats, and boatmen; 996*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* from fees of office; 3,026*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*

from duty on rum sold for consumption; 3,269*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* from taxes on houses, horses, and lands, including the sum of 340*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* collected under the Carriacou Medical Rate Act; 270*l.* 10*s.* from licences to auctioneers, hucksters, to use carts and fire arms, to sell wine, malt, and spirits, and 678*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* from fines of courts, rents of fish houses, warehouse rent, fees from Carriacou dispensary and from seizures. The total revenue, with the surplus of 1,504*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* of the previous year, placed to the credit of the Colony the sum of 21,599*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*

After payment from it of nearly the whole amount appropriated by the Supply Act of the year 1864 there remained an available surplus of 4,365*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* for the service of the ensuing year.

The following is a statement of the comparative revenue for 1863 and 1864:—

Revenue.	1863.	1864.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Fixed revenue - -	13,604 14 3	16,147 7 0	2,542 12 9	—
Revenue in aid -	5,500 11 7	3,948 1 10	- - -	1,552 9 9
	19,105 5 10	20,095 8 10		
Surplus of previous year	2,000 17 6	1,504 8 11		
£	21,106 3 4	21,599 17 9	2,542 12 9	1,552 9 9
Deduct decrease in revenue in aid - -			1,552 9 9	
Total increase from all sources in 1864 - £			990 3 0	

The Revenue exhibits a net increase in 1864 of 990*l.* 3*s.*, as compared with that of the previous year. The largest increase appears under the head of Imports, consisting chiefly of mules, flour, oats, beef, corn, oil, meal, malt, olive oil, soap, refined sugar, brandy, shooks, lumber, shingles, wines, and on goods paying ad valorem duty, the value of the latter exceeding that of the previous year by 17,364*l.* There is also an increase in the revenue on tonnage of 112*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, and the additional tax of 6*d.* per gallon on rum yielded a further sum of 525*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* There remained uncollected of the taxes raised for the service of 1863, 187*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* and for that of 1864, 212*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*

Expenditure.

Under this head the Expenditure appears to amount only to 17,234*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, less by 2,367*l.* 1*s.* than that of the previous year, but there remained unpaid during the year under several departmental heads the sum of about 760*l.*; and a quarter's salary, due on 31st December 1862, having been paid in January 1863 previously to the coming into operation of the Act authorizing the monthly instead of quarterly payment of public servants, apparently swelled the expenditure of 1863 beyond that of 1864.—

The following is a comparative statement of the expenditure for the two years:

1863.	1864.	Decrease.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
19,601 14 5	17,234 13 5	2,367 1 0

Local Revenues.

Under this head appears several special funds raised and appropriated exclusively for the purposes to which they respectively belong.

The first of which is a sum raised by a tax on the assessment of houses in the several towns of the Colony, to be applied for the repairs of their respective streets. The total

GRENADA.

amount of revenue under this head for 1864, including the surplus of the previous year, amounted in the aggregate to - - - - - £ 431 11 6
The expenditure to - - - - - - 262 0 11

Surplus - - - - £ 169 10 7

Water Tax.—Port of St. George.

This is a fund originally raised by a tax on houses and shipping for the purpose of introducing a supply of water into the town of St. George, and for the use of the shipping the object of the Act having been carried out, the tax on houses has since been removed, and a tax of 3*d.* per ton on vessels clearing from the port of St. George, and 2*d.* per ton from any out-port, has been continued to defray the salary of a superintendent, and the expenses for the maintenance of the works. The Revenue during the year is as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Surplus Revenue - - - - - -	107	0	5
Tax on shipping - - - - - -	207	0	8
Interest on a loan of 687*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* to the general revenue of the Colony - - - - - - -	28	3	9
	342	4	10
Expenditure - - - - - - -	57	17	6
Surplus - - - - £	284	7	4

Harbour Dues.

The source of this fund, which originated in the year 1809, is from a tax on vessels of 1½*d.* per ton applicable to the clearing out of the harbour of St. George and restoring the depth of water where the same had been lessened, but a long period has elapsed since any attempt has been made to carry out the provisions of the Act, in consequence of the heavy outlay required for a steam dredging machine, and the funds have therefore been from time to time appropriated to the general uses of the Colony.

The present fund, including the balance of the previous year, amounted to 185*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, without any expenditure having been incurred.

Public Lands and Buildings.

Under this head the revenue is derived from the rents arising from the late military lands and buildings, from which source the buildings are upheld. The rents, together with the balance of the preceding year amounted to - - £ 269 12 2
The expenditure to - - - - - - 178 14 4

Surplus - - - - - £ 90 17 10

Immigration Fund.

There was at its credit, including the balance of the preceding year, a sum of: £ 6,969 14 10
In the hands of the Emigration Commissioners - - 823 6 4

£ 7,793 1 2

The expenditure for the year for salaries of the Immigration agent, interpreters, and the amount remitted towards forming a sinking fund and interest on account of the Imperial Guaranteed Loan and other incidental expenses in the Colony, amounted to: £ 1,166 12 0

Leaving a surplus of - - - - - £ 6,626 9 2

Post Office.

The revenue under this head, together with the balance of the preceding year, amounted to 559*l.* 6*s.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Remitted to the Imperial Government for their quota of postages	339	6	8
Paid for stamps	12	6	0
Appropriated to the uses of the Colony for its quota of postages	128	19	2
	480	11	10
Balance	78	14	2

Colony Hospital.

The funds of this Charity are partly derivable from the rents by leases of certain lands and buildings belonging to it and partly from annual Legislative grants.

This Charity was originally a private institution for the reception of poor and indigent sick people of the Island, but from its funds falling short of its requirements, and the want of public hospitals in the country, it has been recognized as such and subsidized by a Legislative grant.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Its revenue from rents of the past year amounted to	158	18	9½
The Legislative grant	700	0	0
	858	18	9½
The expenditure to	1,061	18	2¼
Leaving due by the Charity	£ 202	19	4¾

Casual Revenues.

There is a sum of 109*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* in the hands of the Casual Receiver, of which there appears to have been no appropriation during the year.

Church Lands Fund.

Of the revenue and surplus under this head there were 226*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*, and the expenditure which was applied to the purposes of churches and schools of the Church of England amounted to 99*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*, leaving a surplus of 127*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*

Port of Grenville.

This fund is derived from a tax imposed on the shipping entering that port, and applied by its Commissioners for the safety and convenience of vessels arriving thereat and departing therefrom.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The revenue amounted to	225	4	7¾
The expenditure to	253	6	2

Public Debt.

There is no other Public Debt but that for emigration purposes, and is as follows:—

The Imperial Guaranteed Loan under 11 & 12 Vict. cap. 130., 7,000*l.*, and a local loan under Act No. 316, 2,000*l.* The first of these loans is redeemable in 20 years, from 1st July 1858; one-twentieth part of the amount is yearly invested as a sinking fund, which amounted in stocks to 31st December last to 2,713*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* Provision for the payment of the local loan of 2,000*l.* has been made by the investment with the Colonial Bank at interest, of a large portion of the surplus immigration fund, and is redeemable in five years from 5th June 1862.

Legislation.

Only eight Acts were passed during the year. The most important of these are:—

1 and 2. The Post Office and Police Magistrates Acts, by which the provisions of former Acts are continued for three years instead of one as heretofore.

GRENADA.

3. The Act for the Improvement of the Administration of Criminal Justice, and the Consolidation of the several Statutes relating to the Duties of Justices of the Peace, which is an adaptation of the Imperial Statute 11 & 12 Vict. cap. 42.

4. The Act for the Appointment of a Police Magistrate for Carriacou, which enables the adjudication of cases before the Police Magistrate, instead of the local Justices of the Peace; this is a measure which was much required for that distant dependency of this Government.

5. The Act for fixing the Salary of the Treasurer and the Appointment of an Auditor of Public Accounts, which permanently fixes the salary of the Treasurer, instead of that officer having to depend upon an annual vote in the Supply Act. This Act also provides for the effective examination of the accounts of Receipts and Expenditure by the Auditor.

The other Acts are for legalizing the security of Guarantee Societies in case of certain public servants, for reducing the rates of duties payable on exports, and the usual annual Supply Act for 1865.

Population.

The population of the Colony, as represented by the Census of 1861, was 31,900, which with the immigrants introduced since that period, and the natural increase, was estimated at the close of 1863 at 35,230. By the addition of the difference between the baptisms and burials, taken from the returns of the clergy and ministers of religion, as the only means by which an estimate can be formed in the absence of an Act for the registration of births and deaths, will show an estimated population of 36,027, or an increase of 2·26 per cent. on that of the previous year.

Ecclesiastical.

There has been no change in the Ecclesiastical establishment during the year.

There are seven churches and three chapels belonging to the Established Church of England, with an average attendance of 1,565 persons, under the ministrations of five rectors and three curates. There are two Presbyterian churches, served by one minister, with an average attendance of 140 persons.

These establishments are supported by the Colony at an annual cost of 2,292*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*, besides the fees and value of glebes of the several rectors.

There are also eight Roman Catholic churches and chapels, to which are attached five priests, with an average attendance of 3,950 persons, and also four Wesleyan chapels with one minister, and an average attendance of 690 persons.

These two establishments are supported by voluntary contributions, but the Legislature from time to time make grants to them for building and repairing their churches, school houses, &c.

The average attendance in these several places of worship was 6,345 persons, equal to 17·61 per cent. of the estimated population.

Education.

The Legislature made provision for carrying out the Act for the appointment of a head master of the Grammar School and Inspector of Schools, but as the arrangement for obtaining the services of a competent person could not be carried out before the close of the year there has been no change under this head.

The following return shows the number of schools receiving aid from the Board of Education which are entirely for the education of the labouring class:—

Year.	No. of Teachers.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Increase of Scholars in 1864.
1863 - -	27	25	1824	—
1864 - -	27	26	1865	41

Imports and Exports.

The following comparative table of the imports and exports exhibit an increase in value of 31,239*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* on imports.

The increase under this head is chiefly from the United Kingdom, there is also an increase from the United States, principally in provisions, lumber, shooks, oil meal, &c.

The exports show a like increase of 40,737*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*; this is owing to the improved prices in the sugar market and the advanced price of cotton during the earlier part of the year, also in the quantity and value of the oil obtained from the whale fisheries, the quantity exported in 1864 being 8,668 gallons against 4,975 gallons of the previous year.

COUNTIES.	Imports therefrom.				Exports thereto.			
	1863.		1864.		1863.		1864.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
United Kingdom - - -	36,944 1 10		65,832 3 7		102,701 17 3		140,370 14 3	
British Colonies - - -	44,222 18 1		43,155 11 4		6,858 18 1		4,900 12 7	
United States - - -	8,171 13 4		11,307 8 2		33 15 0		936 13 10	
Foreign Countries - - -	736 3 5		1,018 16 1		2,882 17 6		7,006 14 10	
Total - - £	90,074 16 8		121,313 19 2		112,477 7 10		153,214 15 6	

Agriculture.

As compared with the previous year there has been a decrease in the principal staples of the Island with the exception of cotton, which shows an increase of about 9½ tons. This is to be attributed to the unfavourable season towards the close of 1863, which extended to the early part of 1864 and seriously affected the anticipated returns of the crop.

There has been some improvement made on the following estates, viz., the Plains, Lataste, and Mount Rose estates, in the parish of Saint Patrick, and Clark's Court estate in the parish of Saint George by the erection of multitubular boilers for the manufacture of sugar, by which a considerable saving in fuel and labour is effected.

Several of Macarthy's improved patent cotton gins have been introduced by which at least six times the quantity of cotton is gained per day than by the native cotton gins or churka of India, which are in general use in the Island.

A large extent of land has been brought into cotton cultivation throughout the Colony; the want of additional labour is greatly needed, and unless it be ~~supplied by~~ immigration this and the other agricultural operations cannot be beneficially and successfully carried on.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The state of the Gaol has been under the consideration of the Legislature for the last twelve years, during which period, although repaired from time to time, the progress of decay has been steadily proceeding. The necessity which existed for the construction of a new one was brought specially under the notice of the Assembly by Lieutenant Governor Kortright in his speech at the commencement of the financial session of October 1859, when his Excellency remarked that, "the state of the gaol requires your urgent "attention. It is quite unsafe for the custody of prisoners, and affords no facility for "their proper classification. The surveyor of public works is of opinion that it is per- "fectly useless to attempt to repair it. I shall cause his report, together with his plans "and estimates for a new building, to be presented to you. I leave you to consider "whether, under the circumstances which the Report will set before you, the repair of "the present building should be undertaken, or whether it would not be more advan- "tageous to the public service to erect a new gaol as the surveyor of public works "recommends. In the latter case there will be the question whether a new site should "be selected, or the present one be retained. Should you consider the present situation "the preferable one, provision would have to be made for the temporary custody of the "prisoners. If we concur in opinion that a new gaol should be built, I would recommend "that the funds required be raised by a loan." Upon which a committee of the House was appointed, who reported that having considered the Lieutenant Governor's message covering the report of the surveyor upon the state of the gaol, having had reference to the various communications which had been made from time to time during the last seven years upon the subject, it appeared that the necessity for the erection of a new gaol was undeniable, that they desired explicitly to state that the subject demanded immediate consideration, and could not be longer delayed without danger to the public and the due administration of justice.

GRENADA.

Whereupon the Assembly resolved as follows, "That a new gaol is necessary, and as "soon as the House can ascertain how the requisite funds are to be raised, it will enter "fully into the consideration of the erection or the adaptation of some other building "for the purpose of a gaol."

Lieutenant Governor Mundy again called the attention of the Assembly to the state of the building in his speech in November last as requiring urgent attention, yet no further steps have been taken with respect to it. The evil will in a short time remedy itself, as the rapid progress of dilapidation and decay to which the building is subjected will ere long force upon the consideration of the Executive the question as to whether it can be any longer retained as a safe place for the confinement of criminals.

Return of prisoners convicted by the Supreme Court and by magistrates during 1862 and 1864.

Year.	Supreme Court.		Magistrates.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Female.	
1863 -	19	3	196	37	255
1864 -	16	1	171	32	220
			Decrease -	-	35

The foregoing return shows a diminution of 35 prisoners in the number of convictions both by the Supreme Court and by the magistrates. Of those convicted, none of them are for crimes of a serious nature.

Charitable Institutions.

In the report under this head for 1863 it was stated that there were six medical districts in the Island, the medical officer of each of which receives 100*l.* a year for attendance on the poor; a health officer at Carriacou, under whose superintendence a dispensary is conducted; he receives a salary of 300*l.* a year, and attends poor and destitute sick people; a hospital in the town of St. George for the reception of the sick poor and destitute; a poor house and lunatic asylum, under the control of a board of guardians appointed by the Governor, who is visitor of both institutions; also an almshouse for the reception of destitute females who have been in better circumstances. There has been no alteration in the number and management of these institutions during the year.

The total number of patients treated in the Colony hospital was 318; the total number of days in hospital, 13,335, giving an average of 36·42 per day. The number of inmates in the poor house was 40, besides 57 receiving out-door relief; in the lunatic asylum, 15, and in the almshouse, 8.

The entire expenditure by the Colony in the maintenance of these several institutions, with the exception of the almshouse, which is supported by private contributions, amounted for the year to 2,352*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, including the salaries of the medical and other officers and servants.

General Observations.

It is a matter worthy of congratulation to remark that the general condition of the people, both socially and politically, has considerably improved. The labouring population are prosperous, contented, and happy. The health of the Island has been unexceptionable; no epidemic of any sort has been prevalent.

At the end of the year the prospect of an abundant crop was looked forward to with brightened hopes, but it is to be feared that the anticipations of the agriculturists will be marred, in consequence of the rains having set in at a period when they looked for fair weather to carry on their agricultural operations. This will in a great measure reduce the present crop, and be unfavourable to the ensuing one.

I have, &c.

His Honour Edwin D. Baynes, Esq.,
Administrator of the Government,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) SAMUEL MITCHELL,
Colonial Secretary.

TOBAGO.

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor MUNDY to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 161.)

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbados, July 31, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Colony of Tobago for 1864, together with the Lieutenant-Governor's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROB. M. MUNDY.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c &c.

(No. 30.)

SIR, Government House, Tobago, July 22, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the Blue Book for 1864, with a brief Report on it.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The whole revenue for the year 1864, including an arrear of revenue of 62*l.* 12*s.*, amounted to 8,427*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, of which 6,034*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* was fixed revenue, and the balance, viz., 2,330*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, was raised by incidental receipts and receipts in aid of the revenue; the principal one, the tax on lands and tenements and hereditaments, having alone realized 1,604*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* In the previous year the revenue amounted to 8,278*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, showing an increase in 1864 of 149*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*

The expenditure during the year appears by the returns to have been 9,946*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*, but that includes arrears of 1862 and 1863, amounting to 1,326*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*, showing an actual expenditure of 8,620*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* against an actual expenditure of 8,769*l.* 4*s.* 5½*d.* in 1863.

	1864.			1863.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Actual revenue - - -	8,427	17	7	8,278	13	6
Actual expenditure - - -	8,620	0	7	8,769	4	5½
Difference on revenue and expenditure	192	3	0	490	10	10
Arrears of previous years to be added	1,326	12	1			
Total deficiency, 1864 - -	£1,518	15	1			

Militia.

There is no militia embodied; the Acts, therefore, for regulating the militia are in abeyance.

Public Works.

The only amount expended on public works during the year were the small sums of 54*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, for keeping the public buildings generally in repair, and of 595*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* for repairing the roads. The Road Act is rather a strange one. It empowers the way-wardens to call out every male inhabitant between the ages of 16 and 50 to labour once a year on the roads, at such time and for such length of time as may appear to the way-wardens to be necessary. The labourer receives 6*d.* a day whilst so engaged, but if he desires it he may commute for a payment of 6*s.* The commutation money is appropriated to special works, such as bridges, &c. There are no exemptions under the Act.

Legislation.

Legislation during the year appears to have been almost at a stand still, as by the return under that head it appears that the only Act passed was one to appropriate the revenue of the year.

TOBAGO.

Civil Establishment.

The only change in the above establishment appears to have been the assumption of the duties of Colonial Secretary in April by Mr. Percy Blackwood, who was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. John Beresford.

Stipendiary Magistrates.

The Island is divided into four police districts, under the charge of three stipendiary magistrates, who are paid by the Colony a salary of 200*l.* per annum. They also get fees under the Petty Debt Act.

Imports and Exports.

The value of imports during the year amounted to 49,782*l.* and of exports to 64,286*l.* In 1863 the value of imports was given at 46,869*l.*, showing an increase in the year 1864 of 2,913*l.* The value of the exports in 1863 was 48,961*l.*, showing an increase in the year 1864 of 15,326*l.*

Agriculture.

The amount of sugar exported in 1864 was estimated at 49,423 cwts., against 52,922 cwts., shipped in 1863. This decrease may probably be ascribed to dry weather in 1863 and the first part of 1864.

Education.

Education made some progress during the year. In 1863 the total number of pupils receiving education was 2,070. In 1864 the number had increased to 2,185, viz.:

Church of England schools - - - -	984
Wesleyan - - - - - -	547
Moravian - - - - - -	654

Prisons and Prisoners.

The common gaol at Scarborough is situated at Fort King George in a healthy elevated situation and at some distance from the town. It was the military hospital when troops were stationed in the Island. As in most of the smaller West Indian Colonies, crimes of an aggravated nature are rare. Burglary is seldom attempted, and the principal offences are petty thefts and assaults, which are summarily disposed of by the Magistrates. A reference to the return in the Blue Book will show the small number of prisoners returned as "Felons."

General.

The condition of the labouring class is good. It is true that wages are low, but the labourers on the estates are allowed so many perquisites as more than to compensate in their minds for the small pecuniary remuneration they receive for their labour. In fact I can state from experience that they prefer labouring on a sugar estate at a low rate of wages and perquisites to working on other properties at a considerable advance of wages. The people generally appear happy and contented, and are consequently well behaved and orderly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. KORTRIGHT.

Lieutenant Governor Mundy,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor MUNDY to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 320.)

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbados, July 6, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the Blue Book of the Colony of St. Vincent for the year 1864, together with a compendious report thereon from Lieutenant-Governor Berkeley.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) ROB. M. MUNDY.

G. BERKELEY, Esq., to Lieutenant-Governor MUNDY.

(No. 94.)

SIR, Government House, St. Vincent, June 28, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Colony of St. Vincent for the year 1864, together with the following brief report thereon.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for 1864 was 20,359*l.* 17*s.* 0*d.*, being 971*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* in excess of the revenue of the previous year. The principal items of increase are 149*l.* on hucksters' licences; 1,530*l.* on import duties; 521*l.* on excise duties; 463*l.* on post office revenue; 366*l.* on trade licenses. The increase in the import duties which has taken place without any additional taxation is, I believe, mainly attributable to the improved system of collection adopted by the present Treasurer. The increase in the excise duties is owing to the additional consumption of spirits in the Island. The item of 463*l.* under the head of Post Office is merely a nominal increase arising from the proportion due to the Imperial Post Office having been excluded from the revenue collected under this head in 1863. The Trades Licence Act did not come into operation till the commencement of 1864.

The expenditure of the year 1864 was 19,781*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*, being 1,330*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* less than the expenditure of 1863. Among the items of increase will be found 300*l.* for the salary of the Presbyterian minister, a charge not appearing in the previous year's account; 139*l.* for the registration of births and deaths, under an Act passed in 1864; 991*l.* for the Loan Act, in consequence of the amount of 1,000*l.* and interest having been repaid in 1864 from the general revenue to the Immigration Fund; 941*l.* for special grants for which no permanent provision is made; 600*l.* for Post Office, the amount remitted to the Imperial Post Office being reckoned as expenditure in the present statement; 1,043*l.* for militia and volunteers, including to a great extent the expenses attendant upon the original equipment and clothing of the corps. Under the column of decrease will be seen the amounts of 586*l.* for prisons, and 1,267*l.* for riots expenses, which were charges incurred in 1863, contingent upon the disturbances in 1862. An apparent decrease of 785*l.* under the head of miscellaneous is accounted for by the fact that this expenditure in 1864 was charged to separate special accounts.

Immigration Fund.

This fund, which it has been considered advisable to keep separate from the general revenue, shows an expenditure of 968*l.* as against 224*l.* in the previous year; the cause of increase is the amount of bounty paid on Portuguese immigrants from Madeira, amounting to 764*l.*

Public Debt.

The general revenue owed the Immigration Fund 3,400*l.* at the close of 1863; of this amount 1,000*l.* was repaid in 1864, and further provision has been made for the payment of the balance.

Militia.

The local militia forces consist of one troop of cavalry of 52 men, one battery of artillery of 58, two companies of militia rifles of 120, and two companies of volunteers,

ST. VINCENT. together 104, making a total force of 334 men, exclusive of a band. The Secretary of State, in a Despatch to the Governor in Chief, No. 58, of the 23rd of January last, was pleased to express his satisfaction at the report made by Major-General Brooke, of the result of an inspection of the militia held by him in December last, and which spoke highly in favour of the efficiency of the several corps.

Legislation.

Fourteen Acts were passed during the year, of which the most important were,—

1st. "An Act to authorize the Appointment of an Executive Council," which authorizes the appointment of members of the Legislative Council or members of the House of Assembly to be members of the Executive Council, with the powers and privileges of a Privy Council. The Act also authorizes the appointment of any two members of the Executive Council, being members of the House of Assembly, to be responsible organs of communication between the Governor and the House of Assembly, and provides that no appropriation of money shall originate in the House except with the sanction of the Executive.

2d. "An Act to amend 'The Militia Act, 1863,' and 'The Volunteer Corps Act, 1863.'" This Act substitutes other provisions for those hitherto enforced in reference to proceedings to be had in cases of alarm, and declares how many details in connexion with the Militia and Volunteer Acts are to be carried into effect.

3d. "An Act to authorize the Appointment of an Auditor of Public Accounts." I consider the appointment of an officer of this description as the most valuable addition that could be made to the local civil establishment, the provision hitherto made for the performance of the duties appertaining to this office being unsatisfactory in the extreme.

4th. "An Act for registering Births and Deaths," makes necessary provision for "establishing a systematic registration of births and deaths throughout the Island and its dependencies."

5th. "An Act to extend the Operations of the Post Office" which provides for the establishment of the Post Office money order system between this Colony and the United Kingdom, and the transmission of mails by the French mail steamers. This Act is also one of much public benefit.

The Acts for continuing in force a certain Act, entitled "An Act for laying a Duty on Exports, and for continuing in force and extending the Provisions of the Income tax Act, 1859," are noticeable only as contributing to the general revenue of the Colony for a certain fixed period.

Civil Establishment.

The only addition to the fixed permanent establishment during the year was the office of Auditor of Public Accounts.

Population.

The Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1864, being in force for only a portion of the year, the returns under the head of births and deaths cannot be relied upon with any amount of accuracy. 1,423 baptisms are returned, and 686 burials out of a population of 31,700. The marriages during the year amounted to 143.

Ecclesiatical.

The returns show six churches and 10 chapels in connexion with the Established Church, with an average attendance of 3,082. The congregation attending the only Presbyterian Church in the Island amounts to 150. The Wesleyan Society has 12 places of worship, with an average attendance of 4,010. There are three Roman Catholic Chapels with an average attendance of 650.

Education.

The Legislature has provided that the sum of 700*l.* be set aside for the purposes of education, to be paid in certain proportions as laid down by enactment to the schools in connexion with the different religious denominations in the Island. The number of schools open during the year, were, Church of England day schools 21, average attendance 962; Sunday schools 9, attendance 274; Wesleyan schools, week day 10, attendance

655, Sunday schools 8, attendance 443, Roman Catholic 3 day schools, attendance 99, Presbyterian 1 Sunday school, attendance 80; total, 34 day schools, 1,716 scholars, 18 Sunday schools, 797 scholars. The same number of day schools was open in 1864 as in the previous year, with a falling off however, of 208 in the attendance at the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic schools. The Church of England established two additional Sunday schools, and the Wesleyans report one less, there is a falling off in the attendance of 73.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports of the Colony for the year were 136,148*l.*, of this 53,690*l.* were from the United Kingdom, 68,253*l.* from British Colonies, and 14,205*l.* from foreign ports. This statement shows an increase upon the imports of the previous year of 27,659*l.* namely, 11,913*l.* from the United Kingdom, 8,364*l.* from British Colonies, and 7,382*l.* from foreign countries.

The value of the exports for the year were to the United Kingdom 142,931*l.*, to British Colonies 11,900*l.*, and to foreign countries 1,582*l.*; total, 156,413*l.*, being an increase of 14,076*l.* on the exports of the previous year.

The amount of sugar exported in 1864 was 8,168 hogsheads, against 8,742 hogsheads in the previous year, showing a decrease of 574 hogsheads; of rum 1,284 puncheons in 1864 against 1,554 in 1863, showing a decrease of 270 puncheons; of molasses, 1,418 puncheons in 1864 against 408 in the previous year, being an increase of 1,010 puncheons; of arrowroot, 7,229 barrels in 1864 against 7,275 in 1863, showing a decrease of 46 barrels in the past year; of cocoa, 13,200 lbs. in 1864 against 12,000 lbs. in 1863, showing an increase in 1864 of 1,200 lbs.; of cotton, 29,700 lbs. in 1864, against 33,600 lbs. in 1863, showing a decrease in 1864 of 3,900 lbs. The increased value of the exports, in the face of the falling off in the quantities exported, may be ascribed to the rise which took place in the home markets, during a portion of the year, in the value of West Indian produce.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The total number of convictions during the year were 339, which compares unfavourably with the returns of 1863, which show 291 convictions. It is satisfactory, however, to notice that this excess does not arise from any increase in the higher offences against the law, but is attributable to the greater number of persons committed by the stipendiary and police magistrates during the year for offences of a minor nature.

Another circumstance tending to swell the list was the unwillingness or inability of the labouring classes to select the option of paying fines instead of undergoing imprisonment. I believe this is to be attributed to a great extent to the increased price of the necessaries of life, principally in the materials of clothing.

General Remarks.

My recent connexion with the Colony causes me to hesitate in pronouncing an opinion, based upon my own experience, as to its condition or prospects. I consider, however, that the views adopted by Lieutenant-Governor Musgrave, in his final report in 1864, have every prospect of being realized. Sugar cultivation is being carried on with undiminished vigour, greater attention is paid to the growth of arrowroot, an article assuming an important item under the head of exports, the cultivation of cotton is on the increase. The evils anticipated from the drought experienced in the former portion of the year were to a great extent counterbalanced by the rain that fell towards its close. The Colony was not visited by any epidemic disease, and its sanitary condition was satisfactory. The labouring population, as a rule, were well behaved, and labour more easily procurable than of late years. The immigrants continued to be viewed favourably by their employers, and little doubt can exist that the prosperity of the Colony is owing mainly to the introduction of this description of labour.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY.

Lieutenant-Governor Mundy.

St. Lucia.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 11.

No. 11.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Mundy to the Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, M.P.

(No. 257.)

Sir, Windward Islands, Barbados, May 15, 1865.

I have the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of St. Lucia for the year 1864, together with a full Report from the Administrator of the Government upon the general condition of the Colony.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) ROB. M. MUNDY.

(No. 64.)

Government Office, St. Lucia, April 29, 1865.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Colony for 1864, accompanied by the usual abstracts and comparative returns.

Revenue.

2. The general revenue of the past year, although less than the estimate, was in excess of that for 1863.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1863 - - - - -	12,591	9	2
1864 - - - - -	12,948	12	9
Difference in favour of 1864 -	£357	3	7

But the import duties were increased by an additional impost of 1*s.* 3*d.* per barrel upon wheat flour, and 5 per cent. upon the duties collected. This yielded 542*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*, so that there was a decrease upon the taxation common to both years of nearly 200*l.* Although during the early part of 1864 the rates at which produce ruled were good, yet the short crop, the high price of manufactured goods, and the depression caused by the continued downfall in the prices current of the sugar market, had a bad effect upon the revenue.

3. The value of imported goods was, however, considerably higher than in 1863.

	Value of Imports. £
1863 - - - - - -	69,583
1864 - - - - - -	90,363
Difference in favour of 1864 -	£20,780

This difference is due to the greater supply and the augmented price of cotton manufactures; for the consumption of articles of food has again been less than in the previous year. But this may be attributed partly to the plentiful supply of ground provisions, particularly "farene," which enters into consumption very largely in this Colony.

	Quantity.	1863.	1864.	Decrease.
Fish, salted - -	Quintals -	7,367	7,039	328
Fish, pickled - -	Barrels -	1,257	656	601
Flour, wheat - -	Barrels -	7,226	4,789	2,437
Rice - - -	lbs. -	637,402	330,573	306,829
Meats, salted - -	lbs. -	223,254	174,131	49,123

4. The total revenue of the Colony raised from all sources was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
General revenue - - - -	12,948	12	9
Immigration fund - - - -	2,753	12	6
Roads and bridges - - - -	894	2	9
Education - - - - -	648	7	10
Military property fund - - - -	419	14	7
	£17,664	10	5

In this statement the head-money paid into the Treasury for Coolie immigrants is neglected, because it is in point of fact the repayment of an advance, and a new head of account is added, "the Military Property Fund," which is specially applied to the repairs of the military buildings. It consists of the rents of the military lands and buildings which are placed under the charge of the Local Government, and the proceeds of the sale of the buildings at Pigeon Island. This sale, and the appropriation of the amount realized, was sanctioned by the Secretary of State for War.

Export Duties.

5. There is no change in the Tariff of these duties, or the manner in which they were applied. They amounted to 1,871*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* Of this sum, 1,246*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* went towards the repayment of the Guaranteed Loans to this Colony, 377*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* to the credit of the road fund, and 248*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* to education.

Imports and Exports.

6. The following table shows the value of imports and exports during the last five years :—

	Imports.			Exports.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1860 - -	97,900	1	0	105,947	4	4
1861 - -	110,063	19	8	96,321	8	2
1862 - -	93,606	15	1	87,991	15	0
1863 - -	69,583	0	0	83,711	17	5
1864 - -	90,363	1	3	111,383	15	1

The great increase in the value of exports last year is owing principally to the higher average value of the sugar shipped from this Colony.

	£
Value of sugar in 1863 - - - -	69,480
Do. 1864 - - - -	95,700
Difference in favour of 1864 -	£26,220

Expenditure.

7. The expenditure of 1864 has been less than that of the previous year, although the expense of the increased police force has been borne for the whole year instead of eight months and a half. The general revenue, however, was insufficient to meet the general expenditure by a small sum, and this notwithstanding it was considerably below the amount sanctioned by the estimates.

	£	s.	d.
General expenditure in 1863 - -	14,480	4	6
Do. 1864 - -	13,367	8	3
Decrease in 1864 - - -	£1,112	16	3

This difference is partly accounted for by the fact that the grant for education (500*l.*) was not payable by law, and that no contribution was required for immigration purposes.

ST. LUCIA.

8. The total public expenditure for the period embraced in the report was as follows:

	£	s.	d.
General expenditure - - - - - -	13,367	8	3
Immigration, including interest on sinking fund for the redemption of the Guaranteed Loan of 15,000*l.* -	2,889	19	8
Roads and bridges, including interest on and sinking fund for redemption of Guaranteed Loan of 3,000*l.* - -	530	15	6
Education - - - - - - -	1,124	8	10
Military property - - - - - -	80	7	5
	£17,992	19	8

Public Debt.

9. At the close of the year the investment in 3 per cent. reduced annuities to form the sinking fund for the redemption of the guaranteed loans to the Colony of 18,000*l.* amounted to 4,218*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* The only other debt at that period was created by the temporary application of a portion of the floating balance belonging to the special funds in the treasurer's hands to cover the deficiency in the general revenue already referred to; the sum so borrowed was 475*l.*

Roads and Bridges.

10. There is nothing worth reporting specially under this head. The statute labour performed upon the roads, calculated at 1*s.* a head per diem, is represented by about 1,000*l.*, which, together with the amount paid for material to repair bridges, and hired labour (288*l.*), makes a total of 1,288*l.*

Public Works and Buildings.

11. No new works were undertaken last year; 84*l.* was spent on the necessary repairs of some of the public buildings.

Legislation.

12. Ten Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council last year, all of which have been confirmed.

No. 1, "An Ordinance to enable the Mayor and Town Council to impose a Tax on "Houses and Lots of Land for the Service of the Year 1864."

The Corporation having neglected to enact their annual byelaw imposing this rate within the period prescribed by law, it became necessary to pass an Ordinance to extend the time.

No. 2, 2nd March, "An Ordinance to sanction certain Expenditure incurred in the "Year 1863 in excess of the Estimates of that Year."

The Audit Office having recommended that the supplementary estimates should be covered by an Ordinance (as is the case with the original estimates) this Ordinance was passed to carry out their suggestions.

No. 3, 8th June 1864, "An Ordinance to ratify and confirm an additional Rule of "Court to be observed in the Court of Appeal for the Windward Islands."

No. 4, 8th June 1864, "An Ordinance to provide for the Establishment and Mainten-"ance of a Court of Appeal."

These two Ordinances were passed for the purpose of doing away with sham appeals. Under the provisions of the original Ordinance parties very often appealed from judgments upon promissory notes, and in other matters where there was no valid ground of appeal, but merely to gain time. There were no initiatory fees to be paid, and as the Appellant had six months within which to prosecute his case, he could, when the period had nearly expired, drop his appeal, sustaining at the same time very little expense. The tariff of fees, however, substituted in the first-named Ordinance, instead of the one imposed by the Ordinance of 1859, imposes certain fees for the initiation of the appeal, which it is believed will operate as a check to the entering of time appeals, and at the same time reduces the other expenses, thus giving a facility to parties who really wish to test a judgment of the lower Court. But the greatest bar to sham and vexatious appeals is contained in the amending Ordinance, under which, in every case of appeal when the judgment or decree appealed from is founded on a notarial bond or obligation, or a pro-

missory note, bill of exchange, or other written acknowledgment of a specific sum of money being due between the parties, or in which the sum or value in dispute does not exceed 100*l.*, it is competent for the Royal Court on the application of the Respondent to direct the judgment to be carried into execution, the Respondent giving security to abide the final decision of the Upper Court.

No. 5, 14th June 1864, "An Ordinance to regulate the storage and keeping of Gunpowder in the Town of Soufriere."

In 1860 an Ordinance was brought into operation to prohibit the storage of more than 50 lbs. of gunpowder in the same place in the town of Castries. The great accession of trade to Soufriere since that period has made it expedient to extend the same regulation to that town. Any quantity of gunpowder above 50 lbs. is to be lodged in a Government store.

No. 6, 1st July 1864, "An Ordinance to establish the Money Order System in Saint Lucia."

The Imperial Post Office having consented to open a money order account with St. Lucia, this Ordinance was passed to enable the Governor in Council to frame the necessary rules and regulations to bring the system into operation.

No. 7, 13th July 1864, "An Ordinance for fixing Rates and Duties for the Public Service of the Year 1865."

This is the annual Tax and Appropriation Ordinance for 1865. It is in all respects similar to the one passed for 1864.

No. 8, 13th July 1864. This Ordinance provides that the annual grant of 500*l.* for educational purposes shall be absolute, and not as heretofore dependent upon there being a surplus in the Treasury at the close of the year.

No. 9, 28th September 1864. In consequence of the projected re-division of the Island into three magisterial districts, it was necessary to pass this Ordinance to provide that, whenever a fresh division is effected by Proclamation, the districts, for the purposes of the Road Ordinance, shall be the same as those prescribed.

No. 10, 3rd November 1864, "An Ordinance to provide for an Inland Postage on Letters forwarded from St. Lucia by the French Mail Packets."

An arrangement having been concluded with the French Government to carry mails by the subsidized line of steamers of the "Générale Companie Transatlantique" running between France, the West Indies, and Mexico, it was considered expedient to make provision that the postage between the British Colonies served by the line should be the same as that charged on letters, &c., conveyed by the Royal Mail steamers; and this Ordinance was passed for this purpose.

Education.

13. The following table exhibits the number of scholars in schools receiving aid from Government last year, compared with the previous year. Two new schools were established under the supervision of the Roman Catholic clergy: one at Soufriere, conducted by sisters of the convent of St. Joseph, and the other at Demery, an out-parish of the island. These two institutions have started with 216 scholars, and it will be seen from the table referred to that there has been an increase in the number of pupils attending the Roman Catholic schools of 297. On the other hand, the number receiving education at the schools supported by Lady Mico's charity was less by 183 than the previous year. These schools, which are non-sectarian, are of great value to the Colony. Nearly seven-eighths of the pupils attending them are the children of Roman Catholic parents. Besides the grant allotted to them by the Board of Education (569*l.*), the trustees of the charity expended 1,022*l.* 14*s.* 7½*d.* upon their support last year, in all 1,591*l.* 14*s.* 7½*d.* Besides this, the teachers employed in them are trained masters, and better fitted for their task than those which the Roman Catholic clergy are generally able to obtain. But in making these remarks I wish to except the schools conducted by the nuns, who are very able, and take great pains with the children under their charge; they devote themselves principally, however, to girls, the convent school at Castries being confined entirely to pupils of this sex, and that at Soufriere only returning 16 boys to 122 girls. The number of pupils in the former school had risen to 296, an increase of about 100 over the previous year. The amount expended by the Roman Catholic committee of the Board of Education during 1864 was 540*l.* 5*s.*, which, with the sum before-mentioned, and a few other items, makes the total amount devoted to educational purposes during that period 2,147*l.* 3*s.* 5½*d.*

—	Number of Pupils.			
	1863.	1864.	Increase.	Decrease.
Mico Schools - -	1,108	925	—	183
Roman Catholic Schools -	501	798	297	—
Total - -	1,609	1,723	114 increase.	

Police.

14. The police are still instructed in musketry drill and in the use of field pieces, of which the Colony possesses a battery of six brass three-pounders. Allusion was made in the last report to the system of good-conduct badges. Twenty-six were granted during the year, of which only four were revoked for misconduct on the part of the holders.

Prisoners—Crime.

15. Last year 522 prisoners were committed to gaol as against 653 in 1863, a decrease in number of 131. Of these 16 had been imprisoned once before, 19 twice, and 5 three or more times. The criminal business of the year was light; the indictments at the sessions being 38 as against 58 in the previous year. Out of these there were 29 convictions, 17 of them for larceny, house-breaking, and breaking and entering shops, &c. In the only capital case the prisoner was acquitted on the ground of insanity.

Agriculture.

16. Notwithstanding the gloomy anticipations formed on account of the protracted drought, the quantity of sugar exported from the Island only fell short of the previous return by about 400 hogsheads.

The following table gives the exported produce for the last three years.

Year.	Sugar.	Molasses.	Rum.	Cocoa.	Cotton.
	lbs.	gals.	gals.	lbs.	lbs.
1862	8,762,415	104,800	8,275	191,392	—
1863	8,725,125	111,200	15,299	251,732	1,652
1864	8,110,025	126,900	2,070	221,759	18,296

Population.

17. The last census was taken in 1861. The population of the Island is returned at the close of last year as consisting of 14,058 males and 14,331 females, in all 28,389. The number of births is stated to be 1,191, of marriages 87, and of deaths 407.

Immigration.

18. The condition of the Coolie and African immigrants located in the Colony continues to be very satisfactory. The five years' contracts of the two lots of the former class, those by the "Palmyra" and "Francis Ridley," terminated in May and June. At the close of the year they were for the most part employed upon estates. In many cases the immigrants have evinced an unsettled tendency, but I had expected that on the cessation of their contracts they would for a time move about to see what places would yield them the greatest advantages, to which they are keenly alive. It was thought desirable that, during the continuance of the present system of district hospitals and medical attendance, they should reap the benefit of it, although they were no longer entitled, as of right to this boon on the cessation of their term of indenture. The cost of their maintenance when in hospital is thrown upon the Immigration Fund. It is not likely that the system will be continued beyond this year, but if immigration to the Colony recommenced, of which there does not appear to be any chance at present, it

would most probably be adopted again, as it has worked very well. The results of the hospitals at Castries, Soufriere, and Vieuxfort, are shown in the subjoined table :— ST. LUCIA.

	1863.	1864.
Coolies admitted in hospitals - -	340	470
Do. discharged - - -	318	442
Do. died in hospitals - - -	27	18
Africans admitted into hospitals - -	10	17
Do. discharged - - -	11	20
Do. died in hospitals - - -	—	1

Although there were 70 more coolies treated in these institutions during 1864 than in 1863, the fatal cases were nine less in number. There was a good deal of sickness during the latter half of the year, although not of a serious character, and the Coolies who have completed their time come into hospital in cases where they would be treated on the estates if their employers would assist them; but the medical officers are instructed not to admit trifling cases, otherwise the hospitals would always be overcrowded with idlers content to remain for their daily rations.

The health of the immigrants generally has been good. The number of deaths was 22 during the year, being 12 less than in 1863, and of births 37, being 14 more than last year. The rate of mortality is 1·68 per cent., and of increase 2·83 per cent. The commitments to gaol have fallen off very much, the number incarcerated being 62 as against 121 in the previous year. The offences were for the most part of a trivial nature, indeed more than half of the prisoners were sentenced to short terms of imprisonment for being absent without leave, or for refusing to work. The amount of wages gained by indentured coolies last year was 6,589*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* As has been before reported, they evince great disinclination to deposit their money in the bank; they wear it on their person, carry it about with them and hide it, which leads to frequent loss. Last year they lodged in the Colonial Bank, through the immigration agent, 183*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, in the two previous years only 27*l.* was so placed. The Africans continue to give great satisfaction. They are much better suited for these Colonies than Indians, for they can perform more work, and are less affected by change of weather. There remained under indenture at the close of the year 174 of these immigrants, who gained during that period 1,204*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* The number of immigrants in the Colony at that period was 1,515, namely, 1,325 Coolies and 190 Africans. This does not include the liberated Africans brought here in 1849, who have long been merged in the general population.

Local Revenue.

19. The revenue raised last year by the Mayor and Town Council of Castries was 778*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*, and the balance at their disposal from 1863, 95*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* Of the amount at their disposal they expended 841*l.* 3*s.* 0½*d.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. GRANT,
Administrator of the Government.

His Exeellency the Officer administering the General Government.
&c. &c. &c.

ANTIGUA.

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No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 113.)

SIR, Leeward Islands, Antigua, August 26, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Colony for the year ended the 31st December 1864, with the Report of the Colonial Secretary thereon.

ANTIGUA.

2. Mr. Eldridge's explanation with respect to the unavoidable delay which has occurred in the preparation of the enclosed statistics is quite correct, and I venture to hope may be accepted.

3. The duplicate copy of the Blue Book shall be forwarded by the next mail steamer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Antigua,
August 21, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour of forwarding the annual Blue Book and the report thereon. The former was prepared by my predecessor in office, the Honourable Mr. Baynes, the administrator of the Government of Grenada.

I must apologize that the report has not reached your Excellency sooner, but having been called so unexpectedly to fill this office, I had much unfinished work, including the report of the Savings Bank, which I was obliged to complete concurrently with the performance of the duties attached to my office.

I pray your Excellency to accept my apology.

I have, &c.
(Signed) V. M. ELDRIDGE,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonel S. J. Hill, C.B., Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

Taxes, Duties, and other sources of Revenue.

1. The larger portion of the revenue is derived from an import or tariff duty, which lately has undergone a considerable modification, 30 per centum on specific duties and 6½ per centum on ad valorem duties, together with the imposts on all machinery and manures having been removed.

The Act under which these duties are collected expires in December 1865, and will in future be an annual Bill. The Legislature seem desirous of reducing these imposts as far as compatible with the public interest.

2. The Excise duty on rum may be considered next in importance to the tariff duties. 1*s.* 6*d.* is levied on every gallon of rum of proof strength manufactured and consumed in the Island, with an additional halfpenny on every gallon of higher degree of strength. This Act was originally passed for educational purposes, was subsequently diverted to immigration, and now is again returned to the general revenue. The tax expires on the 31st December 1865.

3. The tonnage duty of 1*s.* 8*d.* per ton is payable by vessels of all nations; those under 60 tons pay once in every year. Under this head may be included the Holberton hospital dues of 4*d.* per ton on vessels under 20 tons once a year; 3*d.* per ton for vessels over 20 tons and under 60 tons, payable once in every six months, and 3*d.* per ton on vessels over 60 tons at each and every entry. A very important modification was made in December last year in the Tonnage Act, by which vessels are allowed to enter and land a part or the whole of their inward cargo, and export a part or the whole of an outward cargo, upon the payment of a package duty.

Under this amended Act vessels laden with ice and fresh meats and vegetables, or with coals for steamers employed in the mail service, are admitted to entry, free of tonnage dues, but all vessels are subject to Holberton hospital fees.

4. *Licences.*—With the exception of the liquor licence, which is payable quarterly, all licences are granted for one year. But one tavern licence has been granted, which was found to have a demoralizing effect; the magistrates have refused to grant another licence.

10. The several parishes of the Island levy rates for partial support of the established church, the curates and the minister of All Saints district being paid out of the public chest at an annual expense of 1,200*l.*

11. An export tax on sugar, at 3*s.* 4*d.* per hogshead, is levied for militia purposes, being refunded in the shape of a bonus of 25*l.* per annum for each trooper serving under the provisions of the Militia Act.

Revenue and Expenditure.

12. The Treasury returns show the revenue at 36,172*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, and expenditure at 36,127*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, leaving a small balance of 45*l.* 10*s.* On the 31st December there remained unpaid liabilities to the extent of 3,184*l.* 11*s.*; and the Legislature raised 2,500*l.* on debentures, payable on 1st July 1866, which, together with outstanding parochial rates, were deemed sufficient to retire this obligation.

The deficit in the revenue may be briefly thus accounted for. The unprecedented drought, extending over 20 months, almost destroyed our entire sugar crop, it having yielded but little more than one quarter the average return; this created a sad reaction on all branches of industry, and all suffered. Our tariff and tonnage dues realized some 250*l.* short of the sum expected, while the general depression among the inhabitants caused the non-collection of taxes to the extent of nearly 2,000*l.* During the year the Assembly voted some 500*l.*, which was wholly unprovided for, and to add to the difficulty the depositors of the savings bank drew out of the institution 1,000*l.*

The revenue this year may therefore contrast favourably with that of last year, although its receipts amounted to some 7,000*l.* less, inasmuch as the modification in the tariff was calculated at 5,600*l.* to 6,000*l.*, being estimated to yield 20,000*l.* in 1864 against 25,600*l.* in 1863; and, in addition to this, the savings bank lodged 1100*l.* in 1863, while in 1864 the institution drew heavily on the Treasury.

The expenditure of 1863 was 37,478*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* against 36,127*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* in 1864.

The crop this year promises a fair return, and we may confidently look for an improved state of things.

13. *Immigration Fund.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
To amount in hand of Messrs. Coutts & Co. - -	1,679	19	10
To ditto in Colonial Bank - - -	1,226	11	11
To ditto of Immigration Commissioners -	3	4	10½
	2,909	16	17½
To amount of planters' notes unpaid - - -	975	2	9
Total - - - -	£3,884	19	4½

14. *Public Debt.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
By earthquake loan, at 3¼ per cent. - - -	1,500	0	0
By amount due savings bank, at 6 per cent. - -	5,971	10	7
By amount notes in circulation - - - -	2,000	0	0
By amount market debentures, at 5 per cent. - -	2,000	0	0
By Police Reward Fund - - - - -	115	6	1¼
By amount of loan raised in January to defray liabilities of 1864 - - - - - - - -	2,500	0	0
	27,586	16	8¼
To amount due by private borrowers to earthquake loan - - - - - - - - - -	3,543	2	6
Total - - - -	£24,043	14	2¼

15. During the past year 30 Acts have been passed, and several of them of a most useful and valuable character. The following short synopsis will give an insight into their provisions:

An Act to make provision for the keeping of accounts of monies in the hands of public officers, boards, &c.

This Act constitutes a monthly auditing of accounts and payment into the public chest of all monies received for the use of the Colony.

An Act granting a subsidy of 150*l.* per annum for the maintenance of an ice house, for the free supply of ice to the public hospitals, and limiting the price to the general public.

An Act abolishing unnecessary oaths.

ANTIGUA.

An Act abolishing duties of excise officers, and altering mode of collecting returns of spirit made and consumed.

An Act amending certain provisions of the lunatic asylum.

An Act legalizing the circulation of 2,000*l.* Treasury notes, that have never been redeemed under the provisions of a former Act.

An Act relating to bills of exchange and promissory notes falling due on holy or proclamation days.

An Act extending the time of payment to borrowers of the earthquake loan.

An Act to regulate the application of monies raised for the introduction of immigrants, and to ratify certain contracts.

An Act for carrying into execution in Antigua the West Indian Incumbered Estates Acts 1854, 1858, 1862.

This Act came into operation last year and several valuable properties are likely to be sold under its provisions; the Act cannot fail to be beneficial to the public at large.

An Act assimilating our local laws to those of the mother country on the subject of arrest.

An Act authorizing the raising of a loan for the construction of water works, and making provision for the maintenance of the same.

This Act will confer one of the greatest boons on our people, in a sanitary point of view, at the same time affording a double protection to the owners of property in the city and vicinity by giving them an available means for the extinction of fire; and by thus causing a reaction on the charges of the insurance companies, whose rates are now almost prohibitory, but perhaps not too high for the risk they run in a town almost entirely built of wood. The Act authorizes the raising, on security of the Colony, the sum of 30,000*l.*, at 6 per centum, payable in 20 years. The Island revenues are charged with one-third the interest, while the city and vicinity are taxed to cover the remaining two-thirds. The Island provides 1,000*l.* per annum as a sinking fund for the purchase of the works, and the income drawn from the general undertaking will go in diminution of this sum. The money has been raised and the works will shortly be commenced.

An Act to make better provision for the selling of liquors.

Acts making provision for the performance of the duties of the Colonial Secretary, Provost Marshal, and Registrar of Deeds; and in the case of the latter officer transferring prospectively his duties to the Colonial Secretary, with an addition to his salary of 150*l.* per annum.

These Acts were introduced and passed on the recommendation of a commission appointed by the Governor to report on the working of the several offices. The dockets of fees have been increased to make the offices, to a certain extent, self-supporting, and the clerks in the departments are made Government officers, and paid from the public chest, and not as heretofore from allowances made to the head of the departments. The fees at present received by the Colonial Secretary will, upon any new appointment, be paid into the public chest.

An Act to amend an Act relating to jurors and juries.

Under the former Act only freeholders and managers of estates were eligible to serve on juries, this Act extends the qualification to merchants, storekeepers, tradesmen, principal clerks in the receipt of 50*l.*, or 30*l.* with board and lodging. This amendment is important in two respects, first, by adding a numerous and intelligent class to the jury list; and, secondly, the list being so enlarged individual jurors will not be taken so frequently from their ordinary occupation, as heretofore, to attend the Courts, ten sessions of which are held annually. This Act provides that in civil causes, after a deliberation of 12 hours, the verdict of nine jurors shall be received and recorded as the verdict of the jury.

An Act to consolidate the laws relating to the post office and money order system, and providing for the forwarding of patterns by post.

It also contains provisions for an inland post, and the extension of the money order system to our sister Colonies.

Acts amending the Health Act, Police Act, and Liquor Licence Act; in the latter, the limits within which liquor stores shall be opened is prescribed.

An Act regulating the fees charged by the Registrar of Shipping and Measuring Surveyor.

An Act granting a patent to Antoine Louis Possoz for improvements in the manufacture of sugar.

An Act continuing the market loan to 1st January 1867.

An Act for carrying on the business of the Saint John's savings bank.

This Act was passed for the purpose of taking over the business of the savings bank, established by a number of gentlemen in 1847, under the provisions of Act passed in December 1846. The business of the bank was conducted by a board of trustees, an auditor, an actuary, and a cashier, all of whom were to be elected by the shareholders. The bank was much used, and after a few years some 7,000*l.* were deposited in the public treasury. The meetings of the trustees appear to have been regularly held until 1856. In 1857, 1858, and 1859 only one annual meeting took place, and subsequently no meeting until 1864. With this irregularity commenced a system of fraud that has unfortunately been carried on to a considerable extent. Governor Hill, upon assuming the reins of government, took an early opportunity of inquiring into the affairs of the institution, and was promptly supplied more than once with formal statements as to the condition of the bank. The importance of the institution demanded a more careful supervision, and the local Government introduced the Bill to place the St. John's savings bank under Government supervision. The board of audit upon assuming the management of the bank soon found out that fraud had been committed, and upon a strict scrutiny some 900*l.* has been found to be abstracted. The report on the institution has just been published, and I attach the same, as it contains a full statement of all defalcations, &c. The bank is now working well, confidence has been quite restored, and the supervision of the Government sufficiently strong to prevent future wrong doing. Upon the defalcations being discovered the Legislature, although not in any way bound, immediately made provision to protect depositors.

Military.

16. The Militia Act still exists, but it is almost a dead letter; the only force that musters is the cavalry (numbering some 70 men) the members of which draw 25*l.* annual bounty from the export tax, specially raised for this purpose. The infantry and artillery have long ceased to assemble, the time of service of the men having expired, and the Legislature is unwilling to incur the heavy expense of reclothing a new draft of men. A new Bill is before the Legislature, which contemplates doing away with the infantry and increasing the number of the artillery.

Public Works.

17. The police office and the private secretary's office have been put in thorough order; the former building has been roofed with galvanized iron. The public buildings generally, with the exception of the arsenal and guard house, are in very good repair.

The guard house is at present the depository of some very valuable records of the Island, but is so dilapidated that the rain is fast destroying these doubtless interesting papers. The amount has been voted for the repairs of this building, but it has been deferred until our finances are more healthy. The building is intended, when repaired, for the post office, and registrar of deeds office, the latter is much wanted, the present registrar's office and safes for books being in bad order and quite insecure.

The Bill authorizing the erection of Water Works for the City of Saint John, and its vicinity, contemplates bringing water from the mountains on the southern portion of the Island, a distance of almost five miles. The reservoir will be one mile from the city, at an elevation of 150 feet above the level of the sea; should the springs yield too small a supply a gathering ground or water shed will be inclosed in the mountains, covering a space of 100 acres. Nature has already formed a most favourable site for the contemplated work.

The probable cost of the undertaking will be about 25,000*l.* The city will be well supplied with hydrants in case of fire, a provision, in a town almost entirely built of wood, that cannot be too highly estimated, while a free street supply of water will be provided for the most populous districts, which are now entirely without provision.

Council, Assembly, and Civil Establishment.

18. In the Legislative bodies there has been little or no change, no new members having been called to the Council and but few have taken their seats in the Assembly.

In the Civil establishment there have been several changes. Mr. Joseph Shervington, the Colonial Treasurer, died after a long and faithful service of some 40 years in the

ANTIGUA. Treasury department, and has been succeeded by Mr. J. J. Hickson, from Grenada. Mr. J. J. Drysdale, from Tobago, has been appointed Provost Marshal.

Population, Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

19. The Registrar General's report and the very interesting letter from the Registrar of St. John's division attached thereto, which are herewith appended, show but little variation in the returns from those of 1863. The still births are 183, or one in every 7·68 of the births. Of 580 legitimate births, 46 were still born, or one in every 12·6; and of 827 illegitimate births, 137 were still born, or one in every 6. In referring to these returns it must be borne in mind that the mortality in St. John's parish is increased by the number of deaths from the Holberton Hospital and poor house, of persons from all parishes, many being brought into the former institution in a moribund state.

The number of births, deaths, and marriages for the last five years stand thus—

1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.
		Births.		
1,298	1,326	1,072	1,407	1,407
		Deaths.		
1,344	1,403	1,738	1,734	1,750
		Marriages.		
185	197	150	163	166

Ecclesiastical.

20. The attendance at divine service at all our churches and chapels, of the lower classes has considerably fallen off, attributable in some measure to the enhanced cost of clothing and the want of employment during past year reducing their means to a point scarcely enabling them to procure food. There are 14 churches and chapels and 16 clergymen belonging to the Church of England; 10 chapels and five clergymen of the Wesleyan body; and 13 chapels and 10 clergymen attached to the United Brethren; and one Roman Catholic chapel.

Education.

21. The report of the Commissioners is attached herewith; it bears evidence of the small attendance of children at the schools, in consequence generally of the want of clothing, and, in the Windward districts, to destitution and the presence of small-pox. Fifty schools are in operation, 24 belonging to the Church of England, 19 to the United Brethren, and 7 to the Wesleyan body.

The number of scholars stand thus—

	Number on List.	Average Attendance.	Per cent. on Average Attendance.
Church Schools - -	1,662	959	57·7
United Brethren - -	1,518	861	56·7
Wesleyan - - -	498	271	54·4
	3,678	2,091	

The agregate salaries paid are 1,482*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.*

Imports, Exports, and Shipping.

22. Returns for past five years give the following results:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1860 - -	225,791	254,002
1861 - -	208,677	237,123
1862 - -	186,353	226,329
1863 - -	173,912	239,630
1864 - -	171,589	80,833

Tonnage.	Entered.	Cleared.
1860 - -	35,430	35,313
1861 - -	32,300	31,961
1862 - -	31,710	29,705
1863 - -	26,253	28,291
1864 - -	22,532	20,492

Crops.

	Sugar.	Molasses.	Rum.
	Hogsheads.	Puncheons.	Puncheons.
1860 - -	11,889	5,429	586
1861 - -	10,818	5,399	507
1862 - -	14,954	6,404	1,009
1863 - -	13,581	6,148	931
1864 - -	3,354	1,570	50

and 26,000 lbs. cotton.

The above returns give a fair view of the relative trade of the past five years, and when we compare the sad falling off of our exports this year with those of the past it is much to be wondered at that an entire collapse of all branches of trade has not taken place; it is much to be feared the proprietors and English merchants must have sunk large sums of money.

Crime.

23. The commitments during the year were unusually large. The summary magisterial convictions for preceding years are as follows :

1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.
2,205	3,564	2,955	2,815	4,637	3,696	2,882	2,148	2,638	2,749	4,431

But among this large number not one serious offence occurred, petty thefts, cane stealing, breach of contract, illegal detention of property, and riotous and disorderly conduct forming the principal crimes. There can be no doubt that, owing to the distress in the Island caused by the protracted drought, numerous offences were committed from want of the necessaries of life, the fine rains in the latter part of the year gave employment to large numbers, and the number of prisoners in the gaol were speedily reduced to nearly half the average of the year.

Sanitary.

24. The Island was visited by a mild form of small-pox, attacking exclusively the lower classes, who suffered more from want of proper care than from the virulence of the disease. The Board of Health, aided by the clergy and medical men, did much to allay the suffering of the people. The mortality was slight, and in the majority of cases other diseases assisted in carrying off the unfortunate sufferers. With this exception the Island has been very healthy, and, notwithstanding the want of water felt by hundreds and the impure character and limited quantity of that obtained, no stomach diseases of importance prevailed.

Immigration.

25. The immigrants from Barbados, although of small number, have done good service; they fraternise with our people and a generous emulation prevails, which, with the proximity to Barbados and the readiness with which her people come among us, leads us to hope that our own people will exert themselves more than heretofore, rather than force our agricultural body to import fresh labour. Our immigrants leaving Barbados at a time when there was so much suffering was not the most favourable opportunity for their selections; but, viewing those amongst us, as a body they are healthy and robust.

ANTIGUA.

They are more easily excited than our own people. The mortality among them has not been great. The Portuguese immigrants have not turned out as well; many have died and large numbers deserted. The proximity to St. Kitt's, from which island two-thirds of the Portuguese were imported, and where they had served their time and formed attachments both to places and persons, proved too strong an inducement for numbers, who having received their bounty, found themselves back in their old haunts and among their old friends.

The Chinese in many instances prove steady labourers; but a large number were tailors and bakers and quite unfit for agricultural service.

General.

26. The general condition of the Colony is much improved, the rains falling the latter part of the year speedily restored our vegetation to its wonted verdure, and the crop promises to yield a fair average.

The cultivation of cotton is rapidly extending, and large tracts of country are already planted and in course of preparation for this staple; and in some instances sugar estates under full cultivation are being planted entirely with cotton. Some shipments have been made, and good results obtained.

In the country districts the native provisions have not been abundant, but imported articles of food ranged at a low figure during the year. In mercantile matters business has improved and may be considered in a more healthy state.

I have, &c.

Colonel S. J. Hill, C.B., Governor in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) V. M. ELDRIDGE.
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Sub-Enclosure 1 in No. 12.

REPORT of the REGISTRAR-GENERAL of BIRTHS and DEATHS.

SIR, Colonial Secretary's Office, Antigua, April 4, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency, the general abstract of births and deaths for the year 1864. These statistics do not differ in any material respect from those of the previous year. There is a slight increase in the number of deaths, and the number of births is the same as in 1863, viz., 1,407.

2. The still births are returned at 183, or 1 in every 7·68 of the births. Of the 580 legitimate births, 46 were still born, or 1 in every 12·6, and of the 827 illegitimate births 137 were still born, or 1 in every 6.

3. For further information on the subject of these returns I beg to refer your Excellency to the enclosed medical report which Dr. O'Kearney, the registrar and medical officer for St. John, has kindly prepared at my request.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Colonel Hill, C.B., Governor-in-Chief, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) EDWIN D. BAINES,
Registrar-General.

SIR, Antigua, March 21, 1865.

ON looking over the returns of births and deaths for the year 1864, I have been struck by the correspondence of births with the number registered in 1863.

The births in	1863	were 1407
„	1864	„ 1407
Still births in	1863	„ 187
„	1864	„ 183

The births rate for the year 1864, has been, including still births, 3·86 per cent., or one birth nearly to every 25 of the population; the number of twin labours has been 16, the result being 21 children born alive and 11 still born; of the total number of children born, 41·22 per cent. were legitimate, and 58·77 per cent. were illegitimate.

The birth rate for different parishes may be thus stated:—

St. John's	3·72 per cent.
St. Mary's	3·64 „
St. Paul's	3·11 „
St. Philip's	3·1 „
St. Peter's	4·75 „
St. George's	4·99 „

Table No. 1 exhibits the proportion of legitimate to illegitimate still births.

The death rate for the year has been 4·8 per cent., or 48 deaths in every 1,000 inhabitants; the deaths of children of 1 year old and under were 30·1 per cent.; of children over 1 year and under 14 were 15·43 per cent.; and of adults 4·2 per cent., or 42 to every 1,000 inhabitants.

In the several parishes the death rate has been

St. John's	5 per cent.
St. Mary's	3·1 ,,
St. Paul's	4·1 ,,
St. Philip's	5 ,,
St. Peter's	5·78 ,,
St. George's	5·27 ,,

Table No. 2 exhibits the duration of life of infants one year old, and under.

Through the kindness of medical friends I am enabled to state that the number of midwifery cases attended by qualified medical practitioners during the year has been 92, the nature of the cases having been as follows:—

Natural	67
Difficult	6
Preternatural	10
Complex	9
Total	92

and the result has been that four children were still-born, one being a malformation, one was putrid. In one case the mother suffered from syphilis, and in another from tubercular cachexia.

Of the children born alive, one was anacephalus, existing for a period of 36 hours. Of the mothers attended 4 died in childbirth from convulsions.

The table exhibiting the causes of death appears to call for some remark; 326 deaths are attributed to zymotic diseases and eruptive fevers; but it should be borne in mind that in the absence of a medical certificate of the cause of death, fever is very generally assigned as a cause, and includes the remittent fever of children, and in fact all diseases in which the most prominent symptoms may have been heat of skin and restlessness.

The deaths from small-pox have been as regards each parish:

St. John	5
St. Mary	1
St. Paul	9
St. George	7
St. Peter	12
St. Philip	37
Total	71

In the parish of St. Peter, five deaths are attributed to typhus, and one to yellow fever.

Dropsy, tubercular phthisis, and diseases of the stomach and liver, have respectively numerous deaths assigned to them.

I have to acknowledge myself indebted to Mr. R. S. Heagan, for some elaborate calculations bearing on the birth and death rates; and to Doctors Nicholson, Edwards, Odlum, Freeland, and Black, as also to Mr. Luke Cole, the intelligent warden of the Holberton Hospital, for information respecting obstetric practice.

I have, &c.

Edwin D. Baynes, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS G. O'KEARNEY.

Office of Registrar-General of Births and Deaths.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR QUARTER ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1864.

PARISH.	No. of Births.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Complexion.			No. of Deaths.	Adults.		Under 14 and over 1 year.		1 year and under.		Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
Saint John	195	38	45	54	58	128	23	44	263	79	73	15	19	39	38	188	27	48
Saint Mary	48	18	11	12	7	43	3	2	33	4	6	5	2	10	6	30	3	—
Saint Paul	43	13	8	8	14	38	1	4	55	9	14	6	9	8	9	43	4	8
Saint Philip	43	11	9	10	13	29	3	11	42	7	7	6	4	9	9	29	5	8
Saint Peter	47	5	10	15	17	36	4	7	74	23	10	9	7	8	17	41	19	14
Saint George	68	15	10	21	22	56	3	9	76	16	14	10	10	11	15	68	5	3
TOTALS	444	100	93	120	131	330	37	77	543	138	124	51	51	85	94	399	63	81

ANTIGUA.

Office of Registrar-General of Births and Deaths.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH FOR QUARTER ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1864.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	No. of Deaths.	ADULTS.		Under 14 and over 1 year.		1 Year and under.		Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
I. SPECIFIED CAUSES.										
A. *General Diseases.*										
Zymotic (epidemic, endemic, or contagious) or eruptive fevers.	111	15	14	22	20	22	18	75	19	17
B. *Sporadic Diseases.*										
Dropsy, cancer, and other diseases of uncertain or variable seat.	23	9	9	4	1	—	—	19	1	3
Tubercular diseases	60	26	31	1	2	—	—	46	4	10
Diseases of the brain, spinal marrow, nerves, and senses.	36	9	14	4	4	5	—	21	4	11
Diseases of the heart and blood vessels	17	11	6	—	—	—	—	13	4	—
Diseases of the lungs and other organs of respiration.	22	7	—	—	2	7	6	14	2	6
Diseases of the stomach, liver, and other orgens of digestion.	122	35	13	16	17	10	31	90	18	14
Diseases of the kidneys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Childbirth, diseases of the womb, &c.	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Rheumatism, diseases of the bones, joints, &c.	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diseases of the skin, cellular tissues, &c.	12	9	3	—	—	—	—	10	2	—
Malformations	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Premature birth and debility	16	—	1	—	—	12	3	12	1	3
Atrophy	8	—	—	1	3	2	2	6	—	2
Age	39	11	28	—	—	—	—	34	1	4
Sudden	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Violence, privation, poison, intemperance, &c.	8	3	1	2	2	—	—	6	1	1
Still-born	55	—	—	—	—	24	31	44	2	9
II. CAUSES NOT SPECIFIED.	10	2	2	1	—	2	3	7	2	1
Totals	543	138	124	51	51	85	94	399	63	81

Office of Registrar-General of Births and Deaths.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	No. of Deaths.	ADULTS.		Under 14 and over 1 year.		1 Year and under.		Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
I. SPECIFIED CAUSES.										
A. *General Diseases.*										
Zymotic (epidemic, endemic, or contagious) or eruptive fevers.	326	65	56	54	47	53	51	241	29	56
B. *Sporadic Diseases.*										
Dropsy, cancer, and other diseases of uncertain or variable seat.	121	37	62	14	6	1	1	94	8	19
Tubercular diseases	188	81	100	4	3	—	—	150	7	31
Diseases of the brain, spinal marrow, nerves, and senses.	116	37	36	8	8	15	12	81	12	23
Diseases of the heart and blood vessels	62	29	27	3	2	1	—	50	6	6
Diseases of the lungs and other organs of respiration.	81	29	15	5	4	12	16	58	7	16
Diseases of the stomach, liver, and other organs of digestion	291	85	37	40	38	38	53	207	36	48
Disease of the kidneys	4	2	1	—	—	—	1	3	—	1
Childbirth, diseases of the womb, &c.	12	—	12	—	—	—	—	10	1	1
Rheumatism, diseases of the bones, joints, &c.	9	4	5	—	—	—	—	7	—	2
Diseases of the skin, cellular tissues, &c.	49	27	20	2	—	—	—	45	3	1
Malformations	6	—	—	—	—	3	3	5	1	—
Premature birth and debility	56	4	3	1	2	28	18	38	5	13
Atrophy	45	7	6	8	5	11	8	30	3	12
Age	134	55	79	—	—	—	—	120	4	10
Sudden	5	3	1	1	—	—	—	5	—	—
Violence, privation, poison, intemperance, &c.	20	9	2	3	5	—	1	14	2	4
Still-born	183	—	—	—	—	99	84	150	6	27
II. CAUSES NOT SPECIFIED	42	6	12	2	4	8	10	31	3	8
Totals	1,750	480	474	145	124	269	258	1,339	133	278

Office of Registrar-General of Births and Deaths.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR EACH QUARTER OF THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1864.

QUARTERS.	No. of Births.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Complexion.			No. of Deaths.	ADULTS.		Under 14 and over 1 year.		1 year and under.		Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
To 31 March	355	70	64	113	108	262	31	62	536	154	157	49	37	74	65	415	36	85
To 30 June	289	62	63	89	75	210	21	58	363	100	111	28	26	54	44	279	23	61
To 30 Sept.	319	63	65	89	102	225	28	66	308	88	82	17	10	56	55	246	11	51
To 31 Dec.	444	100	93	120	131	330	37	77	543	138	124	51	51	85	94	399	63	81
TOTALS	1,407	295	285	411	416	1,027	117	263	1,750	480	474	145	124	269	258	1,339	133	278

Office of Registrar-General of Births and Deaths.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Parish.	No. of Births.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Complexion.			No. of Deaths.	ADULTS.		Under 14 and over 1 year.		1 year and under.		Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
Saint John -	608	127	126	188	167	376	70	162	817	264	239	53	47	115	99	580	72	165
Saint Mary -	148	37	35	40	36	134	5	9	126	26	36	11	5	25	23	111	4	11
Saint Paul -	145	35	30	36	44	126	6	13	174	36	48	12	14	30	34	149	8	17
Saint Philip	120	31	22	31	36	94	7	19	195	48	52	19	17	27	32	165	8	22
Saint Peter -	190	30	31	60	69	144	16	30	231	64	54	23	16	38	36	163	32	36
Saint George	196	35	41	56	64	153	13	30	207	42	45	27	25	34	34	171	9	27
TOTALS -	1,407	295	285	411	416	1,027	117	263	1,750	480	474	145	124	269	258	1,339	133	278

TABLE No. 1.—Showing the proportion of LEGITIMATE to ILLEGITIMATE STILL BIRTHS—during the Year 1864.

ANTIGUA.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Complexion.			TOTAL.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.	
Parish of St. John -	18	11	29	28	68	3	15	86
„ George	4	3	10	16	28	1	4	33
„ Mary -	1	—	3	4	7	—	1	8
„ Philip	2	—	4	6	10	—	2	12
„ Peter -	1	1	17	8	24	—	3	27
„ Paul -	3	2	8	4	14	2	1	17
TOTAL -	29	17	71	66	151	6	26	183

ANTIGUA.

TABLE No. 2.—DURATION of LIFE of INFANTS one year old and under, whose DEATHS were registered in 1864.

PARISH.	Died within 24 hours.	Within 1 week.	1 month.	From 1 month to 2.	2 months to 3.	3 months to 4.	4 months to 5.	5 months to 6.	6 months to 7.	7 months to 8.	8 months to 9.	9 months to 10.	10 months to 11.	11 months to 12.	Total.	Complexion.		
																Black.	White.	Coloured.
St. John -	3	18	26	14	14	9	5	3	10	4	4	2	1	10	128	79	17	32
St. George -	2	8	5	7	1	2	5	3	2	2	—	—	—	5	42	35	4	3
St. Mary -	10	6	9	1	2	4	1	3	1	3	1	—	—	7	48	43	1	4
St. Philip -	4	2	5	3	1	6	2	2	—	1	—	3	3	3	35	27	3	5
St. Peter -	3	7	8	3	4	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	—	8	47	32	4	11
St. Paul -	1	[illegible]	9	4	5	2	3	4	—	—	2	—	2	5	44	39	2	3
TOTAL -	28	48	62	32	27	25	17	17	16	12	9	7	6	38	344	255	31	58

ANTIGUA.

REPORT of the Commissioners of Education, for the year 1864.

AT no time during the past seven years was so much difficulty experienced in supporting schools, and in securing even a small attendance of pupils, as during the year 1864. Throughout the Island the high price of ordinary articles of clothing has been assigned as one of the chief obstacles to school attendance, while the Windward districts have, in addition to this, had to contend with small-pox and great destitution.

The schools in operation at the end of the year were 50 in number—24 being Church of England schools, 19 Moravian, and 7 Wesleyan schools. The following changes have been made during the year. The Church school at St. Philip's Rectory was closed, a new school was opened by the rector of St. Mary's in Darby's village; and the private school of John Carty, was, in consequence of a resolution of the Board of Education, placed by him in the last quarter of the year under the supervision of the rector of St. John's. (For convenience the returns of this school for the whole year are incorporated with the Church school returns.) The Moravians opened a dame school in the large village on Gray's Hill; and the Wesleyans for some reason closed what was at one time a thriving school in Seaton's Village. The number of the schools appears to have reached the maximum. Those in existence afford, with few exceptions, sufficient accommodation, though in all cases of the most suitable kind for a much larger than the present attendance, and for the most part they are so situated that no village, and few estates, are more than two miles distant from the nearest school-room. This being so, we believe that the extension of a plain, sound, and useful education, will be best promoted by concentrating all efforts upon, and applying all available means to the improvement of the schools now in operation.

The attendance during the year in the schools of the three religious bodies, was as follows:—

Church or Denomination.	Number on the List.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage in Average Attendance.
Church Schools - -	1,662	959	57·7
Moravian Schools -	1,518	861	56·7
Wesleyan Schools -	498	271	54·4

making an aggregate of 3,678 on the books, and 2,091 in average attendance. In the middle of 1862, when the highest attendance was attained, these numbers were 4,583, and 2,781, respectively.

But few changes have taken place among the teachers; there were 80 employed at Christmas, either as principals or assistants. According to the returns laid before us, the aggregate salaries amounted to 1,482*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.*; but we have reason to believe that the actual amount paid was considerably more.

Believing the first essential of a good school to be a well qualified teacher, we have, with the view of encouraging the more competent, and of stimulating the rest, held a public examination of teachers in charge of schools, in those subjects which enter into the course of instruction in a good elementary school, particular stress having been laid upon Holy Scripture, reading, spelling, writing, and arithmetic.—Failure in any two of these subjects involved failure in the whole examination, however excellently the remainder of the work attempted had been done. The other subjects were English grammar, the elements of geography, the outlines of English history, vocal music, the elements of physical science, and the principles of teaching.

Attendance at this examination was voluntary, twenty-one candidates presented themselves, one of these was compelled by sickness to withdraw, four failed in the elementary subjects, and sixteen were considered by the examiners worthy of a place in the class list, which stands thus:

First class - - 2 obtained ⅔ of the maximum marks.
Second class - - 5 „ ½ „ „
Third class - - 9 „ ⅓ „ „

Of these 3 are teachers of Church schools,
12 „ „ Moravian „
and 1 is a teacher of a Wesleyan „

Each of the classified candidates is entitled this year to a gratuity of 8*l.*, if in the first class; 4*l.* if in the second class; and 2*l.* if in the third class. Small as these amounts are, it has been to us a source of pleasure to be able to make even so slight an addition to the narrow incomes of deserving teachers.

We propose to hold similar examinations annually, and anticipate that they will give a wholesome impetus to education, and produce more efficient and thorough teaching in every school in the Island.

Really well qualified teachers are with difficulty procured, but the difficulty is most felt when a trained mistress is required. The Moravians alone make any attempt to train young women for school work, and they accomplish this with much advantage to their schools, and at no great expense to the mission. During the past few years, a small grant has been made out of the fund at our disposal towards the maintenance of two young females at the Girls' Training School, Spring Gardens, and was continued during last year. The whole amount was 15*l.* 12*s.*

As was intimated above, the whole cost of the maintenance of the schools does not appear in the returns made to us, but these show that it amounted to at least 1,512*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* for the year. For books and apparatus scarcely 30*l.* was expended, though, in several schools, additions to both were required.

Difficult as it has always been to maintain the schools, last year the difficulties were increased by the falling off in the income derived from school fees, which did not amount to one-eighth of the cost of the schools.

The sum granted by us was 707*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* The distribution of this among the three religious bodies is shown in the tabular summaries appended to this report.

On comparing the cost and income with the number of children on the books, the following results are obtained:—

	s.	*d.*
Amount of fees paid by each child - - - -	1	0¾
„ „ grant on account of child - - -	3	10
Cost of education of each according to returns - -	8	2½

So that notwithstanding the assistance derived from the public chest, the ministers in charge of schools were responsible for but little less than one-half of the expenses of the various schools.

The causes which tended to diminish the attendance, made it also irregular, and in consequence, with but few exceptions, the schools have rather lost than gained ground both as regards discipline, and the general standard of attainment. Considered with reference to the principal subjects of instruction the schools may be thus classified:—

Juvenile and mixed schools - - - - - -	39
Infant and dame - - - - - - -	11

In the latter the instruction is, for the most part, limited to reading, spelling, writing on slates, and learning hymns, while in the former, arithmetic, writing on paper, the elements of grammar and geography, are taught in addition to the foregoing subjects. In every school religious instruction is imparted daily.

Table No, 2, at the end of this report, compiled from the school returns for the last quarter in the year, shows the centesimal proportion of children learning each subject.

At that time there were on the books 3,378 children, of whom 1,238, or 36·6 per cent. were able to read the Scriptures. Every child in a juvenile school and in mixed schools at least 50 per cent. ought to be sufficiently advanced to do this; but there were only eight of the latter up to this standard. The average age of those examined in reading the Scriptures was a little over 10 years. These results, though encouraging, cannot be considered altogether satisfactory.

Nearly two-thirds of the children are taught to write either on slate or paper, and about 29 per cent. were able to write from dictation. This exercise has been employed by the inspector to test the spelling in the following manner:—A short passage (generally the same in every school) was dictated slowly, then the number of words mis-spelt carefully noted and compared with the number actually written, with the following results:—

1. The per-centage of errors in the first class has ranged from 5 to 26. Four in Church schools.
2. In Moravian schools it has ranged from 3·08 to 25.
3. In Wesleyan schools it has ranged from 4·8 to 28·6.

The three best were Greenbay Juvenile School, Parham Wesleyan, and English Harbour Church School.

These results show plainly that the subject demands more attention than it has hitherto received; but the difficulty which is experienced in inducing parents to purchase suitable books, and the little attention paid to preparation of lessons at home are serious obstacles to improvement, as well in this as other subjects.

Arithmetic.—It has been a matter of great and constant complaint that, as a rule, arithmetic has not been as yet successfully taught in our schools; barely 45 per cent. of the children received instruction in the subject at all, and not more than 12 per cent. have advanced beyond the simple rules. And, even low as this is, the work done was very inaccurate, generally not more than two exercises out of five were correctly worked. The subject was not taught at all in two schools; in 14 none had advanced beyond the simple rules; in 13 none had advanced beyond the compound rules; and in 21 there were children learning bills of parcels, proportion, &c.

In this subject, as well as in grammar and geography, the instruction is for the most part oral, and success is almost altogether dependent upon the skill and ability of the teacher, and the clearness of his explanations. While some possess very fair ability and are able to teach lucidly, yet generally there is much room for improvement; but, necessarily, it must be slow, for even if it were desirable to remove the inefficient, competent persons could not be procured in sufficient numbers to fill the vacancies.

Notwithstanding that the religious instruction has always had a large share of attention, and a very fair knowledge of Scripture history attained in the higher classes in several schools, yet in general there has been but little system in the sequence of the lessons from day to day, and, as a consequence, the most confused ideas of the succession of events prevails. Improvement is desirable in the method of imparting religious instruction; but this ought scarcely to be looked for until some steps be taken to increase the efficiency of the subordinate teachers.

The assistance which is derived from the employment of unpaid monitors is often of no real value, and, even such as it is, it is irregular. Were the means at our disposal equal to it, a scheme suggested to us for establishing a class of pupil-teachers would be at once adopted, as it would not only be of immediate benefit but would prove instrumental in increasing the number of competent teachers, upon whose efficiency all hope of improvement must necessarily depend.

The quarterly summaries of attendance, &c., for the year are appended, and also the balance sheet, showing the state of our account when all our obligations for the year 1864 had been discharged.

(Signed) G. C. DAVIS,
Acting Chairman.

ANTIGUA.

COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION.

Receipts.				*Expenditure.*							
1864.	£	s.	d.	1864.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Jan. 1. Balance in hand from 1863 - - -	93	2	7½	April,	Granted to 50 schools - -	179	0	11			
Cash received from the Treasury at various times - -	1,000	0	0	July,	Do. do. do. -	184	11	7			
				Oct.	Do. 48 do. -	180	0	9½			
				1865.							
				Jan.	Do. 49 do. -	164	5	4½	707	18	8
					Granted to Spring Gardens Training School - -				15	12	0
					Gratuities to teachers of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class -				26	10	0
					School registers 5*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*; Stationery 1*l.* 7*s.* 0½*d.* -				6	19	8½
					Paid for printing Quarterly Returns, &c. - - -				1	18	0
					Do. do. Forms of Returns				3	7	0
					Inspector's salary for one year				200	0	0
				1865.							
				Jan.	Balance in hand - - -				130	17	3
	£1,093	2	7½						£1,093	2	7½

TABLE No. I.

Summary of the Quarterly Returns.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS.

Quarter ended.	No. of Schools.	No. of Teachers.	Attendance. No. of Names on the Books. Males.	Females.	Total.	Average Attendance.	Receipts. School Fees. £	s.	d.	Grant paid by Education Board. £	s.	d.	Expenditure. Salaries. £	s.	d.	Books and Apparatus. £	s.	d.	Total Expenditure. £	s.	d.
March 31st -	24	40	906	718	1,624	971	14	17	9½	79	1	5	164	4	9½	2	12	10	166	17	7½
June 30th -	25	41	988	792	1,780	1,040	16	15	5	83	10	1	168	17	10	1	6	4	170	4	2
Sept. 30th -	24	38	967	738	1,705	1,012	14	15	4½	80	11	11	160	17	0	3	12	5	164	9	5
Dec. 31st -	24	39	852	686	1,538	811	11	1	1	73	2	6½	160	9	9	3	2	8½	163	12	5½
							57	9	8	316	5	11½	654	9	4½	10	14	3½	665	3	8
MORAVIAN SCHOOLS.																					
March 31st -	18	23	828	707	1,535	873	31	9	4½	70	13	6	138	11	10	7	19	3	146	11	1
June 30th -	18	23	856	694	1,550	928	31	2	9	71	9	6	141	16	9	2	19	10	144	16	7
Sept. 30th -	19	29	867	701	1,558	918	26	19	10½	71	19	4½	142	12	7½	4	8	10	147	1	5½
Dec. 31st -	19	31	786	643	1,429	726	22	6	1½	64	6	0	143	13	7½	2	3	0	145	16	7½
							111	18	1½	278	8	4½	566	14	10	17	10	11	584	5	9
WESLEYAN SCHOOLS.																					
March 31st -	8	12	258	258	510	276	6	17	11½	29	6	0	67	2	0	0	2	0	67	4	0
June 30th -	7	11	263	258	521	296	7	1	9	29	12	0	65	12	0	1	0	0	66	12	0
Sept. 30th -	7	11	249	249	498	288	6	8	6	27	9	6	65	12	0	0	0	0	65	12	0
Dec. 31st -	7	11	225	239	464	224	5	1	8	26	16	10	63	2	0	0	11	0	63	13	0
							25	9	4½	113	4	4	261	8	0	1	13	0	263	1	0
GENERAL SUMMARY.																					
March 31st -	50	75	1,986	1,683	3,669	2,120	53	5	1½	179	0	11	369	18	7½	10	14	1	380	12	8½
June 30th -	50	75	2,107	1,744	3,851	2,265	54	19	11	184	11	7	376	6	7	5	6	2	381	12	9
Sept. 30th -	50	78	2,073	1,688	3,761	2,218	48	3	3	180	0	9½	369	1	7½	8	1	3	377	2	10½
Dec. 31st -	50	80	1,863	1,568	3,431	1,762	38	8	10½	164	5	4½	367	5	4½	5	16	8½	373	2	1
							194	17	2	707	18	8	1,482	12	2½	29	18	2½	1,512	10	5

TABLE No. 2.

CHURCH OR DENOMINATION.	Centesimal Proportion of Children learning. To Read. Alphabet.	Mono-syllables.	Easy Lessons.	More difficult narratives.	Books of General Lessons.	Holy Bible.	To Write. On Slates from Copies.	On Paper from Copies.	On Slates from Dictation.	Arithmetic. Making Figures.	Simple Rules.	Compound Rules.	Reduction, Bills, &c.	Proportion and higher Rules.	Girls learning to sew.	Number of Children to whom this Return relates.
Church of England	24·1	21·6	16·2	16·7	21·4	31·9	38·7	22·5	21·4	24·5	32·3	4·9	1·6	3·5	17·8	1,510
Moravian -	25·	17·8	19·2	11·9	26·1	40·6	33·1	28·5	37·	19·	32·4	8·6	4·4	3·4	17·	1,393
Wesleyan -	23·4	28·2	21·8	13·3	13·3	40·	56·6	14·5	29·2	14·7	30·9	3·4	6·5	1·05	16·9	475
General per centage	24·4	20·9	18·3	14·2	22·2	36·6	38·8	23·9	28·9	20·9	32·1	6·2	3·5	3·1	16·6	3,378

MONTSERRAT.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 111.)

SIR, Leeward Islands, Antigua, August 21, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from the Administrator of the Government, forwarding the Blue Book of Montserrat for the year ended 31st December 1864.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 45.)

Government House,
August 17, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of Montserrat for the year 1864.

As I was not in the Colony during any portion of the year to which these Returns refer I cannot presume to offer any Report upon the Blue Book.

I may remark, that the delay in making up these returns has been caused by two circumstances, first, the redeeming of the old currency for several weeks occupied the entire attention of the Colonial Secretary, who is also the Treasurer; and when the first copies of the Blue Book were finished they had to be entirely re-written, owing to numerous mistakes in the addition of figures.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD W. SHAW.

His Excellency Governor Hill, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

No. 14.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 148.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, October 24, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor, forwarding, with his Report thereon, the Blue Book of St. Kitts, for the year ended 31st December 1864.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 91.)

Government House, St. Christopher,
October 17, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for 1864, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) BENJ. C. C. PINE,
Lieut.-Governor.

His Excellency Colonel Hill, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on ST. KITTS for 1864.

1. My first Report on this Island contained so full an account of its affairs, up to the end of 1860, that in order to avoid repetition I have in my subsequent Reports merely supplemented it by carrying on the statistical tables, and pointing out any changes which had occurred up to the close of each year. As, however, four years have elapsed since my Report for 1860 was written it may be desirable to bring under one view the principal changes which have since taken place, so as to show the progress of the Island during that period.

I.

2. In my Report for 1860 I gave a brief description of the physical formation and climate of the Island, to which I beg to refer. A short outline of its history may not be uninteresting, on account of the singular manner in which it was first occupied.

Sketch of the History of the Island.

3. The island was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1493, on his birthday, and was hence named by him after his Patron Saint.

4. It was occupied by the English and French almost simultaneously, and shared between them in a singular manner. Instead of being divided into two parts it was divided into four, like the quarterings in the shield of the Royal Arms, and so that the opposite quarters were possessed by each nation. The two portions belonging to each being virtually separated by the territories of the other. To add to this confusion the woods, roadsteads, and salt ponds were common property.

5. The two nations, after uniting to exterminate the Caribs, were of course incessantly at war or variance with one another until, at the treaty of Utrecht, 1713, the French settlements were ceded to the English crown, in whose hands the Island has since remained, with the exception of one or two brief occupations by the French during the subsequent wars.

6. During the joint occupancy of the Island the French capital was Basseterre, the English, the town of Old Road. On the departure of the French the seat of Government was transferred to Basseterre, where it now is.

7. In the course apparently of this removal the English Archives were lost, for we have no acts or records in the public offices extending further back than 1713.

8. Memorials of the joint occupancy are seen in some excellent bridges and cuttings on the roads, the work of the French, and by strange roads across the mountains, now useless; but then evidently to enable the people of each nation to travel from one portion of their territory to the other without traversing the inhabited parts possessed by the other nation.

9. There are no remains of the Caribs in the island, except some rude sculptures on a large stone near Old Road, which are unmistakeably the works of those people.

II.—*Taxes.*

10. The only changes in the tariff of taxes given in the Report for 1860, are,—

1st. In 1862 an additional export tax of 4*s.* 2*d.* per hogshead on sugar was imposed for the maintenance of the cavalry corps. This is, however, only nominally a new tax, for previously to its imposition every estate was compelled to furnish, gratuitously, one or more troopers to the cavalry. This was a serious hardship on smaller estates, so the burden was changed into a money payment in the form of the tax in question, the produce of which is paid to the larger estates (which are now alone compelled to furnish troopers) as a compensation for the service.

11. 2nd. In re-enacting the Customs Act this year the following articles were removed from the table of exemptions:—All apparatus for the manufacture of sugar (except steam engines and their appurtenances), chaff cutters, ploughs, harrows, and hogsheads containing coal. This change is so far against the planters and in favour of the general taxpayer.

12. I still, however, adhere to the opinion expressed in my Report for 1860, that the land scarcely bears its fair proportion of the taxation. If, however, the planting interest has been too strong to allow of a more equal distribution of the taxation, the Government has at least succeeded in carrying out its settled policy of compensating for this inequality by devoting a very large part of the revenue to the benefit of the labouring classes, in giving them education, medical aid, and other advantages.

13. The taxation of the Island is moreover, as a whole, very light, considering the efficiency of the Government in nearly every department, and the smallness of the population. It amounts to little more than 16*s.* a head.

III.—*Revenue and Expenditure.*

14. The following table exhibits the revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

	Revenue.				Expenditure.
Years.	Imports.	Exports.	Other sources.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
1860	12,978	2,308	5,405	20,691	21,723
1861	12,080	2,329	5,872	20,283	21,433
1862	12,783	2,585	6,924	22,292	21,371
1863	10,701	2,528	8,742	21,972	22,154
1864	11,221	1,467	6,757	19,445	21,257

15. It will be seen that the falling off in the total revenue of 1864 was occasioned by the great diminution in the part arising from duties on exports, owing to the shortness of the crop, caused by the almost unprecedented drought which prevailed at the latter end of the preceding year.

16. On the other hand, the revenue from import duties slightly increased. This was owing to the larger quantity of bread-stuffs imported to supply the deficiency caused by the failure in the crop of potatoes, yams, and other edible vegetables.

17. It will be observed that the expenditure for these five years has exceeded the revenue by about 2,900*l.* The explanation of this is as follows:—At the end of 1858 there was a balance of 9,177*l.* in the Treasury; this was reduced at the beginning of 1860 to 6,433*l.*

18. It was the policy of the Government, to which I thought it right to adhere, to reduce this balance to 3,000*l.* by an expenditure in public works of permanent utility.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

We have, accordingly, spent no less than 10,000*l.* in new works of this nature, the chief of which are specified under head of public works. We have, moreover, expended 5,000*l.* in repairs of public buildings, which were in a very dilapidated condition.

Further, the expense of the Hospital has increased from 1,200*l.* to 2,000*l.* per annum; and we have devoted an additional 800*l.* per annum to affording medical relief to the labouring classes; and we have increased the expenditure for education from 500*l.* to 1,100*l.* per annum.

19. We have also incurred several extraordinary expenses during this period, such as 1,250*l.* for the entertainment of Prince Alfred, and 500*l.* a present to our late able Attorney-General, now Chief Justice Burt, sums voted with more than ordinary pleasure by the Legislature.

20. Further, in 1863–4 a remission of 12½ per cent. was made on the export and import duties to relieve the community suffering from the severe drought. This was a loss to the revenue of about 1,800*l.*

21. Notwithstanding all this abnormal expenditure, and this increase in our regular expenditure, we shall have at the end of the year, instead of the proposed 3,000*l.*, about 5,000*l.*, so that the revenue has exceeded the ordinary expenditure during these five years by nearly 10,000*l.*

22. The grounds on which we propose to keep a not less sum than 3,000*l.* in the treasury are thus stated in my recent speech to the Legislature:—

"This Island, like most others in this neighbourhood, is subject to the visitation of "hurricanes, droughts, and other calamities. A hurricane might spread such havoc "among our public buildings as to render necessary an expenditure much in excess of "our ordinary revenue; while a drought would destroy our crops, check our trade, and "therefore diminish our revenue. In either case, had we no balance to fall back upon, "we should have to increase our taxation, and this, too, precisely at a crisis when the "people, suffering under these visitations, are least able to bear the additional burden."

IV.—*Imports and Exports.*

23. The following table shows the value of the imports for the last five years:—

Years.	Goods liable to specific duties.	Goods liable to ad valorem duties.	Goods admitted free of Duty.	Total value of imports.
	£	£	£	£
1860	87,238	59,432	11,363	158,034
1861	68,181	55,381	13,375	136,938
1862	95,777	56,521	14,572	166,872
1863	89,442	51,882	10,560	151,885
1864	129,137	46,617	12,915	188,669

24. The following table shows the value of the exports during the last five years:—

Years.	Sugar.			Molasses.			Rum.		Tous les mois and Arrow-root.	Salt.	Po-tatoes.	Other produce value in sterling.	Total value of Exports, the produce of the island.	Total value of Exports, not the produce of the island.	Total value of all Exports, sterling.
	Hhds.	Trs.	Brls.	Puns.	Hhds.	Brls	Puns.	Hhds.	lbs.	Brls.	Brls.				
												£	£	£	£
1860	8,661	79	5,525	3,569	26	188	1,249	24	35,128	2,972	392	271	172,068	15,099	187,167
1861	8,651	225	5,478	3,127	8	183	1,240	18	25,540	8,752	233	167	145,933	12,291	158,224
1862	9,765	14	6,444	3,127	—	273	1,404	20	15,168	6,616	275	173	159,836	16,121	175,958
1863	10,508	175	7,359	3,032	2	148	1,045	16	69,848	10,666	441	743	159,152	16,553	175,686
1864	5,188	220	4,776	1,850	—	12	321	15	118,420	23,207	1,458	1,523	110,953	14,455	125,408

25. It will be seen that the export of sugar and the articles made from it greatly fell off in 1864, owing to the severe drought, while the export of tous les mois largely increased.

This was in consequence of the impetus given to the cultivation of the latter article by the high prices it commanded the year before in the London market; from the nature of its root it does not suffer from drought nearly so much as sugar, and as it is chiefly grown by the labouring people, it is probable that they spent an unusual amount of time and care upon its cultivation, in consequence of their being thrown out of work on the estates by the failure of the sugar crop.

V.—*Government.*

26. In my report for 1860 I entered so fully into this subject that I have little to say upon it on this occasion. I adhere generally to the views I then expressed, except on one point. I was then in favour of combining the two Houses of Legislature into one, composed of nominees of the Crown and elected Members.

Notwithstanding the success which has attended the government of the Island during the last few years, I am not insensible to the dangers incident to full representative institutions in a small Colony like this. I would fain hope that with the extension of education these dangers may be avoided; but should they become imminent, it would be necessary to change the constitution altogether. But till such a contingency arises it would be safer to have two Legislative Houses than to combine them into one; for nothing would induce some of the most wealthy and respectable men to enter a large, mixed, and unruly assembly where they would be constantly exposed to personalities and other annoyances, so that they would retire from the arena of politics to make way for indigent self-seeking demagogues; whereas now they willingly lend their useful services in a quiet upper chamber; and once in the circle of public affairs, they naturally make their conservative influence felt in every part of it.

I attach no great importance to any other argument against the consolidation of the two Chambers, but this argument against it seems to me to be conclusive.

27. The amended constitution, notwithstanding the defects I adverted to in my report for 1860, has worked on the whole well.

I have assigned to each member of the Administrative Committee a department of the Administration—one having charge of public works, another of finance, and the third of other business.

28. The expenditure is thus arranged: Every requisition or account is first certified as necessary by the member of Committee to whose department it belongs; it is afterwards referred to the member in charge of finance to ascertain whether it is duly provided for in the estimates, and if it be so he certifies accordingly; after which it receives the signature of the Lieutenant-Governor, and the warrant is issued for its payment. Any difficulties which may arise in this process, or in other ordinary business, are reserved for the consideration of the full Committee, when I always preside. Its ordinary meetings were at first held twice a week, but after we had got the business into good order a meeting once a week was found sufficient.

29. The Secretary of State having decided that the Members of the Executive Council are not removable on political grounds, we have taken care to divest that body as much as possible of a party character, and to recommend as members the leading men of different opinions, so that any new administration coming into office will find supporters in the Council.

30. There are other advantages in this arrangement. Every Member of the Executive Council must be in the one or the other of the Legislative Houses, so that by submitting, as we do, every proposed law to the Council before introducing it into the Legislature, we are enabled to explain it to the chief men of all parties in that body, and thus facilitate its passing.

31. Some other inconveniences which I complained of under this head in my former report have been removed.

32. One of these was that the Members of the Committee were charged with details of public business which they could not attend to without devoting their whole time to that service. This inconvenience is removed to a great extent by the provision made for the appointment of a competent officer to take charge of all public works, and by the appointment already made of a qualified clerk to attend to the details of the financial business of the Committee.

33. The creation of small ill-paid offices has wholly ceased. On the other hand we have been enabled lately to suppress several such offices, and to throw the duties of them on other offices.

The four clerkships of the Magistrate of Rural Districts are by the new Act to be

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

united in one officer. The office of Superintendent of Public Works is to be combined with that of Surveyor of Roads; other similar changes are in contemplation. There is still much to be done in this direction, which must however be deferred till vacancies take place in some departments.

34. The competitive system of examination for offices, with the wise modification introduced by the late Duke of Newcastle, has been found very useful. Its tendency is not only to benefit the service, but to stimulate education. It has been applied in the cases of clerkships in the Treasury and other similar offices.

35. The whole administration is, however, still far from altogether satisfactory, but I cannot help thinking that the present amended constitution, so wisely established by my immediate predecessor, is capable, if properly directed, of working out the other reforms which are required.

Municipal Government.

36. I regret to say that the Corporation Act has not done the good it was designed to accomplish. I attribute this partly to a defect in its constitution; instead of leaving it to raise the necessary funds for its working entirely by local rates we unfortunately gave it a large sum out of the general revenue, by handing over to it the produce of the spirit licences collected in the town. The consequence has been that the town council have imposed no local rates, and therefore failed to excite by the irritant of taxation the healthy watchfulness on the part of the constituents, and the sense of responsibility on the part of the representatives, without which popular institutions have no vitality.

37. Thus the town government has fallen into the hands of men whose chief recommendation for office seems to be that they are determined not to tax for any purpose whatever.

38. Still, with all its faults, it cannot be denied the corporation has done some good. It has lighted the town with excellent lamps, fed by Kerosine oil, and effected some other improvements of a minor importance.

I think, however, that it will be necessary to place the power of the town council in the hands of commissioners appointed by the Governor, with an efficient town clerk to execute their orders, until the spread of education shall have taught the people of the town to appreciate local self government.

VI.—*Legislative.*

39. Forty-five Acts have been passed since the beginning of 1860. The following is a list of those of importance, arranged according to their subject-matters. Some of these Acts are very comprehensive, and have repealed and consolidated a vast number of former laws.

40. I.—*Administration of Justice.*

A.—*General.*

1861, No. 177. To make provision for the Trial of Murder and Manslaughter, when the death only happens in the Island.
„ No. 179. To amend the Law relating to the unlawful administering of Poison.
1863, No. 202. To simplify and amend the Administration of Justice.
1864, No. 216. To amend the Laws relative to Juries.

B.—*Magistracy.*

1862, No. 176. To establish an efficient Police, and to provide a Police Magistrate for the Rural Districts. (Repealed by 203 and 210.)
1863, No. 203. To make provision for the Appointment of a Police Magistrate in the Rural Districts. (Repealed by No. 210.)
1864, No. 210. To consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Police Force.
1864. An Act to improve the Administration of Justice in the Magistrates' Courts.
1862. To enable Justices of the Peace to appoint Rural Constables, and to regulate their Duties and Fees.

Sanitary.

1860, No. 168. To prohibit Burials within the Town of Basseterre, except at Springfield.
1862, No. 180. To render compulsory the Practice of Vaccination.

1863, No. 197. To consolidate and amend the Law providing Medical Attendance for Infant Children of the Labouring Population, and to extend such Medical Attendance to others requiring the same.

3.—*Poor Law.*

1861, No. 173. To provide for the Poor and Destitute, and to provide for the Care and Custody of Lunatics.
1862, No. 192. For the Punishment of Persons deserting their Wives and Children.
1863, No. 205. For the better support of natural Children, &c.

4.—*Education.*

1861, No. 172. To establish a Grammar School and to encourage Education among the Industrial Classes.
1864, No. 207. To enable the Board of Education to aid in the erection of School Houses for the Industrial Classes.

5.—*Municipal Government.*

1861, No. 175. To establish a Corporation in the Town of Basseterre. (Repealed by 212.)
1864, No. 212. To establish a Corporation for the Government of the town of Basseterre.

6.—*Miscellaneous.*

1860, No. 169. To establish and regulate a Post Office.
1862. For taking a Census.
1864, No. 208. To prevent the Sale of Cotton without a Certificate.
1865, No. 215. To establish a Police Office.
1862, No. 181. To remove Doubts as to the Legality of Roman Catholic Marriages.
1862, No. 187. To consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Militia.
1864, No. 206. To establish a Fire Company.
1860, No. 170. To maintain an Ice Establishment.

VII.—*Administration of Justice.*

41. Nearly all the evils which I pointed out under this head in my report for 1860, so far as they are within reach of legislation, have been removed.

42. The Superior Courts of Law have been cleared of the cumbrous and expensive system of procedure, which virtually closed them against the poor suitor, and they are now accessible by a very simple process, and at very moderate cost.

43. The new Jury Act, by provisions for a better class of jurors to try civil actions, and by allowing verdicts to be carried by a given majority, varying inversely according to the time of deliberation, has made trial by jury a useful helpmate, instead, as it often was before, a hindrance to the administration of justice.

44. In my report for 1860 I pointed out the great inconvenience which arose from the administration of justice in the Magistrates' Courts by unpaid justices of the peace, who were often planters and other employers of labour.

45. The first innovation on this system was effected in 1861 by an Act appointing a police magistrate for the rural districts, and enabling him to sit along with the unpaid justices. This Act was, however, open to the grave objection pointed out by the Secretary of State, that it was only a temporary one, and therefore subjected the police magistrate to the will of the Legislature. Moreover it did not extend to the town and suburbs of Basseterre, containing a third of the entire population.

46. The Government had, however, to feel its way in the matter, and to contend with difficulties partly caused by the dislike of the planters, a powerful body in this flourishing Island, to resign their magisterial authority.

47. At length, however, taking advantage of a change in public opinion on the subject, we were enabled last year to pass the Act for the improvement of the administration of justice in the Magistrates Courts. The Act provides for a police magistrate for the town of Basseterre in the person of the Attorney General for the time being, and enables both him and the magistrate of the rural districts to adjudicate without the assistance of a justice of the peace. It also provides a Court of appeal to which it gives parties a simple and cheap method of resorting.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

It has further the advantage of being a permanent Act, thus removing the magistrates from any local influence.

48. Owing to circumstances the Act has only recently come into force, and I am, therefore, unable to say much as to its actual operation. Some great benefits have, however, already resulted from it. The very large arrear of cases in the town of Basseterre, arising from the uncertainty of the sessions of the unpaid justices, was cleared off in a week by the new magistrate. Another singular result seems likely to attend the measure, that the litigation in these Courts will be diminished.

When a number of justices took it in turn to sit on the bench, their decision on the same point often varied according to the composition of the Court, so that people looked on the administration of justice as a sort of lottery, every man hoping that the justice for the day might take a favourable view of his case; but when the same magistrate is always on the bench this speculation is, to a great degree, removed by the general knowledge of how he will deal with each case.

VIII.—*Public Works.*

49. The following is a statement of new works completed during the last five years:—

	£
A new church at Middle Island	2,000
New town clock and bell	600
Cemetery chapel at Springfield	705
Work for bringing water into the town of Sandy Point	1,000
New Reservoirs for supply of water to Basseterre	500
Two fire engines	335
A pier at Dieppe bay	805
A new pier at Basseterre	660
A pier at Sandy point	575
Sustaining wall on part of the road along the sea coast	1,075
A new bridge	600
Addition to gaol and police stations	600
Other minor work, about	2,200

50. The whole of the public works and buildings are in excellent repair and the ordinary expenditure is fairly within the revenue, so that a part of the balance in the Treasury may be applied to any new works which it may be thought desirable to undertake.

The Roads.

51. I have reported fully on this subject in a recent Despatch, setting forth the evils of the present system under which the roads are maintained, and the plan which I propose for removal of these evils. It will be seen that the plan, so far from involving additional expense, will effect a saving of 200*l.* to 300*l.* per annum.

IX.—*Population.*

52. Subjoined is an abstract of the births and deaths during 1863–64.

Years.	No. of Births.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Complexion.		
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	White.	Coloured.	Black.
1863	1,211	323	300	318	270	120	202	889
1844	1,145	275	271	312	287	106	199	840

Years.	No. of Deaths.	Adults.		Under 14 and under 1 year.		1 year and under.		Complexion.		
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	White.	Coloured.	Black.
1863	949	190	185	81	77	222	194	95	170	684
1864	881	172	181	61	66	211	190	75	144	662

53. I am glad to call attention to the fact that the mortality among children to which I adverted in my last report, has sensibly diminished in 1864. This may, I think, be attributed to the increased medical care and attention.

54. I regret to be obliged again to notice the large proportion which the illegitimate births bear to the legitimate. This evil is one of those which slavery has left behind it, and which it will probably take generations to remove; among the proximate causes of this evil is the inordinate vanity and love of show so characteristic of the negroes, which induces them to spend large sums at their marriages in dress, entertainments, &c., and to defer that ceremony till they can afford this expense. In anticipation of that event the parties go on with what is called "courting for marry," which simply means in the majority of cases, living together as man and wife. But marriages are, in a great many cases, not happy; they are thoughtlessly contracted and parties perpetually separate, sometimes immediately after marriage.

55. The subject is, however, beset with great difficulties, and gives rise to many questions, and, among others, whether it would not be expedient to relax in some degree the strictness of our laws of marriage and divorce in regard to a people just emerged from the barbarism of slavery.

X.—*Agriculture.*

56. The following is a statement of the sugar shipped during the last five years.

	Hogsheads.
1860	9,404
1861	9,486
1862	10,700
1863	11,545
1864	5,932

The great falling off in the crops for 1864 is owing to the terrible drought to which I have alluded above.

57. In my report for 1860, for the purpose of showing the progress of the agriculture of this Island, I gave quinquennial averages of the sugar crops for 25 years previous to and for the same period subsequent to emancipation. I showed that although there had been a slight decrease in the aggregate production during the latter period compared with the former, yet that during the 25 years of slavery, the production had progressively declined, while during the 25 years of freedom it had progressively risen.

58. I subjoin the table in a condensed form, adding to it the average crop for the five years which has since elapsed.

Years.	Hogsheads.
1810 to 1814	8,085
1815 to 1819	6,412
1820 to 1824	7,282
1825 to 1829	7,609
1830 to 1834	7,658
1835 to 1839	6,142
1840 to 1844	5,201
1845 to 1849	6,252
1850 to 1854	6,544
1855 to 1859	7,383
1860 to 1864	9,413

59. By this table it will be seen that the average production during the last five years is greater by nearly 1,400 hogsheads than the largest average production during any similar period for the last 50 years, and this, too, notwithstanding that the latter five years include a year of unprecedented drought.

60. In my report for 1860, I mentioned what I considered the chief cause of the agricultural prosperity of the Island. It would be unjust not to add that it is greatly aided by the energy and enterprise of the planters, who have employed a great amount of capital in procuring steam engines, other machinery, and implements for improvement of the manufacture of sugar and the cultivation of the soil.

61. Great as has been the increase in the growth of sugar, it seems likely the Island is yet far from yielding the quantity it is capable of producing. It is true that the centre of the Island is composed of masses of mountains, parts of which must ever remain sterile, but the slopes of the hills far upwards possess an excellent soil, and year

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

by year their sombre bush is giving way to the bright verdure of the cane. These hill-side plantations, though distressing to the cattle employed in their tillage, possess one great advantage over those of the level country, that their crops, watered by mountain mists, are not subject to be so sensibly affected by drought as they are.

62. I have nothing to add to what I said in my report for 1860 on the subject of labour, except that I am glad to report that the relations between the planter and the labourer are more satisfactory than they were then. I attribute this partly to the improvement which has taken place in the administration of justice in the rural districts, and to the spread of education among the labourers, and partly to the generally considerate conduct of the planters; whatever may be the cause, however, the fact of the improvement is generally admitted.

63. There are now 57 estates having steam power, and their number is rapidly increasing. A windmill will soon be regarded as a rare memorial of the olden time.

XI.—*Militia.*

64. The militia is composed of two corps, one of cavalry the other of artillery. The staff consists of a colonel (the Lieutenant-Governor for the time being), a lieutenant-colonel, a brigade major, a quartermaster, a staff surgeon, and a judge advocate.

The cavalry consists of a major, two captains, five lieutenants, five serjeants, four corporals, five lance-corporals, and 58 privates.

The artillery is composed of a major, a captain, two lieutenants, and 48 privates.

65. The cost of the force is about 2,000*l.* per annum, and that of the cavalry is defrayed by the tax I have mentioned on the export of sugar, for every estate making above 75 hogsheads is bound by law to furnish, mounted and equipped, one or more troopers, according to its size and value, for which the owner receives a certain periodical payment, on condition of his complying with the regulations.

The artillery, in addition to its own exercise, is drilled as an infantry corps.

66. There are three forts kept in an efficient state, one on either flank of the roadstead of Basseterre, and the third, newly erected, nearly intermediate between them. They thus command the roadstead, and against a privateer, or small force, they would be effective.

XII.—*Education.*

67. A great change was effected in the system of education by the Act passed at the beginning of 1861, No. 172.

Under the former laws on the subject the minimum average attendance which entitled a school to Government aid was so low that schools were in many cases set up for mere sectarian purposes, to keep children from attending the school of a rival church, so that the number of schools was injuriously multiplied, and the funds given by Government consequently scattered over too wide a surface to be useful. There was, further, no inspector, for the smallness of the salary (100*l.*) provided for the office prevented its being filled.

68. The new law raised the minimum attendance entitling a school to Government aid to 40; established a grammar school for the education of the upper and middle classes, and made the principal of it ex-officio inspector of the common schools.

The Act further compelled every schoolmaster to undergo an examination, and by subsequent regulations, premiums are given to those who show the most competency.

69. By a subsequent Act encouragement is given to the erection of school-houses; the Board of Education may award a third of the cost of them out of the public treasury.

70. The following is a return of the schools receiving Government aid, with the average attendance during the years 1863–4:—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.		Average Attendance.	
	1863.	1864.	1863.	1864.
Church of England -	9	10	461	732
Wesleyan - - -	7	8	491	370
Moravian - - -	6	8	444	756

71. In his last report the inspector notices improvement in the schools of the Church and the Wesleyans. As to those of the Moravian Brethren, he remarks, that to say "they are still what they were, may seem faint praise; but it should be remembered "that they have long enjoyed the advantages of admirable organization, and, therefore, "it is as great a matter for them to maintain their position as for the schools of other "denominations to improve." ST. CHRISTOPHER.

72. The inspector further says, "No doubt there is room for improvement everywhere; "but so far as can be judged from the short time during which the present educational "system has been in operation it works well and smoothly, and seems adapted to the "peculiar circumstances of the Island."

73. Among the hindrances in the way of education the inspector mentions "the con- "tinued employment of gangs of children, he might almost say infants, in field work," "the pride of parents, who withdraw their children from trivial causes," and "the want of anything like amusement for the children between the hours of school."

74. In closing this report, while I cannot help feeling thankful that with the aid of my friends and advisers I have been enabled to effect some useful reforms, I cannot be unmindful of the obligation I have been under to my predecessors for preparing the way for these improvements, and especially to my immediate predecessor, Sir Hercules Robinson, who effected the great improvement in the constitution which placed the Governor in direct and legitimate connexion with the Legislature through his responsible advisers. Without this improvement any really important reforms in the institutions of the Island would have been very difficult if not impracticable.

I have, &c.

Government House, St. Kitts, August 17, 1865. (Signed) BENJ. C. C. PINE, Lieut.-Governor

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NEVIS.

NEVIS.

No. 15.

President SHERIFF to Governor HILL.

(No. 62.)

SIR, Queen's House, Nevis, September 20, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency in duplicate the Blue Book for the year 1864.

The revenue of the Colony is principally derived from import or tariff duties, export duties, duties on rum and other spirits consumed in the Colony, tonnage and package duties, duties on licences to retail spirituous and other liquors, and from a tax on horses, carriages, &c. These are fixed by Acts of the Legislature.

The expenditure is chiefly for the salaries of public officers, embracing the judicial and customs establishments, for the maintenance of the police, the gaol, &c., &c. The stipends of the parochial clergy constitute also a part of the public expenditure.

The receipts for the year 1864, including a balance brought forward of 130*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, of which 16*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* was specially applicable to the roads, amounted to 4,923*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*; and the expenditure, including some arrears of 1863, was 4,722*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, with a balance carried forward of 200*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, of which the sum of 74*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* was applicable to the roads.

The proceeds of the tax on horses, carriages, &c., with certain other monies, are by law exclusively applicable to the maintenance of the roads.

The diminution in the receipts of 1864 is mainly to be attributed to the very short crop of 1864 as compared with that of 1863, which occasioned a reduction of 730*l.* on the duty on produce exported, and of 528*l.* on the import duties. This goes far to explain that there remained due by the Colony to the public officers, and for other public liabilities, to the 31st December last, the sum of 2,300*l.*

Upon my arrival in the Colony in August 1864, I found the Treasury in a very unsatisfactory state. Orders had from time to time been issued by the executive upon the Treasury in favour of the public creditors, but there was not money to meet them, and the system of making payments of taxes, duties, &c. by discount of these orders, not in

NEVIS.

full only but in fractional parts also, was so extensively practised that money payments were rarely, if at all, made to the treasurer. As there was a considerable sum due by the Colony to Her Majesty's Government on the earthquake loan, which in the event of default of payment constitutes a first lien upon the general revenue of the island, I felt it my duty to put the law in force, and directed the treasurer to collect every sum due to the Treasury in money, and to suspend every payment, with the exception of those for the support of the prisoners of the gaol, and of the asylum for the poor, until the debt so due as stated to Her Majesty's Government with interest should be fully paid and satisfied. I am free to admit that this was a somewhat stringent operation, but as it rescued the Colony from the reproach of being wanting in good faith to the Government it was approved, I am happy to say, by the community at large.

I may add that the sum of 2,300*l.* due to the public creditors on the 31st December has been since fully paid, principally by a loan of 2,000*l.* from the Colonial Bank secured to be repaid in two years, and that extra duties on imports are now in the course of collection for its repayment.

There are no local revenues except those which are raised by the vestries of the parishes.

These bodies are empowered for the purpose of defraying any parish charge or for erecting or repairing the parish church, &c., to impose taxes on lands, houses, value of produce, incomes, &c., but as the ministers and parish officers are paid from the public revenue these powers are exercised to a limited extent only.

The public debt consists of 1,200*l.*, a balance due on the sum of 12,000*l.* borrowed from Her Majesty's Government in consequence of the earthquake of 1843, and of the sum of 1,000*l.* The sum of 1,200*l.* is payable by two instalments, with interest at 3¼ per cent., the first of which is payable on the 1st August 1866, and the second in August 1867. The sum of 1,000*l.* borrowed by the colony is repayable with interest in the meanwhile at the expiration of a prescribed notice.

The only act of legislation for the year 1864 was an Act to apply the sum of 1,186*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* for the public service.

The Assembly is elected for one year only ; a very inconvenient and for the purpose of business too short a period. Mr. President Dyett was in the administration of the Government but a short time, and upon his lamented decease the Hon. George Webbe, as the senior member of Council, became the administrator and continued to be so until my arrival.

During this period the Assembly, I am informed, disregarded various summonses fromthe executive, abstaining, either from indifference or want of harmony or otherwise, from the transaction of public business. The session of the late House having terminated, the new Assembly met on the 8th September, and an impression prevailing in the public mind that a special investigation into the administration of the Treasury department was urgently demanded, I took the opportunity, while addressing the two Houses, of communicating to them that, in accordance with a despatch from your Excellency, and with the concurrence of the Treasurer, I was prepared to appoint a commission to consist of members of the Council and Assembly to inquire into and to report upon the correctness or otherwise of the receipts and expenditure, &c. of the Treasurer's office. This information was very acceptable to the two Houses, and in their replies I received the assurance of their earnest desire to co-operate with the executive for the public good ; and the commission having been appointed, and the inquiry instituted, both Council and Assembly amply redeemed their pledge of co-operation, for no session ever surpassed in point of work and labour that of 1864–65.

The elective Franchise consists of a freehold qualification of the annual value of 10*l.* of the old colonial currency, equal to 4*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* sterling.

The qualification for a member of the Assembly is a freehold in 30 acres of land, or in lands and tenements of the annual value of 40*l.* currency, equal to 18*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, but there is, strange to say, no leasehold qualification whatever, an omission which will engage my attention at the ensuing session.

The Legislative Council consists of not less than seven and not more than nine members present in the Colony, of whom three make a quorum for the transaction of business.

The House of Assembly consists of 15 members, of whom seven with the speaker constitute a house. This constitution, in imitation of the Lords and Commons, with the accompanying law and practice of Parliament, involves a heavy machinery for the government of a small community, and it is a question whether the business of the Colony would not be more effectively performed, and in one-half the time, by one

chamber consisting of a limited number of members, partly nominated by the Crown and partly elected by the people, and in which the executive would preside.

This chamber might also transact the parochial business of the Colony, which is now performed by 40 vestrymen and 10 churchwardens, annually elected, in conjunction with the rectors.

The Chief Justice of St. Christopher acts as the Chief Justice of Nevis, and resides as matter of course in the former Island, coming over to Nevis at stated periods for the purpose of holding the courts, of which he is sole Judge, having jurisdiction in common law and equity, as well as in ecclesiastical (probate of wills, letters of administration, &c.), and criminal cases, and by a recent statute in insolvent cases also. The Colony greatly desires to have a resident Chief Justice, and, as your Excellency is aware, the two Houses have with that view recently passed a bill granting a salary of 600*l.* to a Chief Justice who shall reside in the Colony, and give his services exclusively to the Colony.

By the census of 1861 the population was 9,822. The subsequent returns of births and deaths, from 1861 to 1864 inclusive, show 1,768 births as opposed to 1,265 deaths, or an increase of births over deaths of 503, equal for the four years to 5·12, and upon an average of the four years to 1·28 per cent. on the population; for nine years, however, from 1856 to 1864 inclusive, the returns of births are 3,389, as opposed to 2,134 deaths, showing an increase of births over deaths of 1,255, equal for the nine years to 12·77, and upon an average of the nine years 1·41 per cent. on the population. The year 1864 may be regarded as an exceptional year, a large proportion of deaths among infants having taken place from choleraic diarrhœa, while the births, from whatever cause, drought or otherwise, were less numerous than usual.

The rate of increase thus shown is not so satisfactory as it might have been; it falls far short of that of St. Kitts and Barbados, with equal advantages of climate, soil, and facilities as to the means of living.

There are five parishes in the Island, the stipends of which are as follows, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
St. Paul - - -	244	8	10
St. Thomas - - -	133	6	8
St. James - - -	133	6	8
St. George - - -	133	6	8
St. John - - -	133	6	8

And in consequence of their limited incomes the parish of St. Thomas is held in conjunction with that of St. James, and the parish of St. John with that of St. George. This works unfavourably for the church, and will, I have every confidence, when the opportunity occurs, be remedied by the Legislature.

The imports of the year 1863 were of the estimated value of 36,021*l.*, whie those for the year 1864 were 28,226*l.* only. The exports of produce in the year 1863 were of the estimated value of 49,992*l.*, while those for the year 1864, owing to the short crop and low prices together, were 16,059*l.* only.

	£	
The import duties for 1863, were,	3,156	
„ 1864, „	2,628	
The exports duties for 1863, „	1,252	
„ 1864, „	521	
The sugar crop of 1863 was—hds. - -		2,633
tierces - -		395
barrels - -		7,520
Equal to hds. 3,836		
The crop of 1864 was—hds. - - -		917
tierces - - -		54
barrels - - -		3,222
Equal to hds. 1,356.		

The subject of education has recently engaged the attention of the Legislature.

There are elementary schools for the children of the labouring population established both by the Church and the Wesleyans. The Colony granted last year 50*l.*, and this year 150*l.*, in aid of these schools. The scholars generally are expected to contribute something, however trifling, to the maintenance of the teachers, but the attendance

NEVIS.

during the year 1864 showed a great falling off as compared with that of the preceding year, and this is ascribed more or less to the reduced means of the peasantry, incident to a long continued prevalence of drought. During such a season the cultivation of his private provision ground fails to give the labourer any return, while the ordinary operations of agriculture on estates being in some measure suspended, his wages are proportionately diminished. The teachers in schools are very insufficiently paid. There is no school, public or private, for the education of the children of either sex of the middle or upper classes. I look forward, however, with confidence for the establishment of a suitable grammar school in the course of the next year.

The agriculture of the Colony is, I think, upon the whole respectable. The plough is used upon estates where the fields are not impractically incumbered with stone. Steam engines are by no means uncommon. There are various properties belonging to gentlemen of independence, resident in Barbados, conducted by an experienced and highly respectable planter of that island, with all requisite means and appliances to ensure Barbados success.

It is affirmed, however, that one great element in the successful career of a Barbados planter, viz., an abundant and continuous supply of labour, does not exist in this Island; but that on the contrary the facilities in the shape of privileges, and the ready command of the necessaries of life in ordinary seasons, go far to render the peasant independent of field labour. The Métairie or share system, largely prevailing in Nevis, occasions also a profitless abstraction from the ordinary labour market, and the impression would seem to be entertained that immigration is becoming of paramount necessity to the Colony.

The soil is favourable to the cultivation of cotton, but with few exceptions little disposition has yet been shown to try cotton even partially as a substitute for sugar.

There appears to have been an increase in the number of commitments to prison in the year 1864, but the increase has been principally in regard to minor offences, and may be, in the case of petty thefts and cane breaking, connected with the prevalent drought. The working of the prison discipline is not sufficiently deterrent, and there is some difficulty in making it so. There is no employment for indoor labour except perhaps the breaking of stone, and working without the walls, principally on the high roads, is but a mock representation of hard labour. A reformatory for juvenile offenders is much to be desired, though costly in operation in a small community.

The subject of the charitable institutions of the Colony is one which it gives me great pain to deal with.

In comparison with Antigua, St. Kitts, Montserrat, Nevis, in respect to her benevolent institutions, has been very far behind her sister colonies. But the leaders of the Colony, gentlemen entitled to every respect, are awakening to a sense of their responsibility in this important particular, and I am persuaded that at no distant period Nevis will have her enlarged and well regulated asylum for the poor, her lepers' house, her lunatic asylum, &c., &c.

I cannot conclude these observations without bearing testimony to the general good conduct, and the quiet and respectful orderly bearing of the labouring population, and of the good understanding which seems to me to prevail between the employer and the employed. I should be pleased to see, however, on the part of the labourer, a little more general intelligence and varied industry, with a view to his own personal benefit and social progress. In these respects there is great room for improvement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES W. SHERIFF,
President.

His Excellency Col. Steph. J. Hill, C.B.,
Governor in Chief,
&c. &c.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 91.)

SIR, Leeward Islands, Antigua, June 22, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from the President forwarding the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands, with his report thereon for the year ended the 31st December 1864.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

President LONGDEN to Governor HILL.

(No. 20.)

SIR, Tortola, Virgin Islands, May 31, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for the year 1864.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The Revenue of the year amounted to 2,110*l.* 13*s.* 3¼*d.*, being an increase of 254*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* on that of 1863. The Expenditure amounted to 2,070*l.* 11*s.* 2¼*d.*, being an increase of 216*l.* 0*s.* 2¾*d.* on that of the previous year. This increase consists almost entirely of the first instalment due on the Public Debt.

Public Debt.

3. The compromise offered to the creditors of the Colony in respect of the debts created anterior to 1832 having been accepted by all, an Ordinance was passed in August last to give effect to the arrangement, and the first instalment, amounting to 206*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* was duly paid on the 31st December last. There are two more instalments to be paid, in 1865 and in 1866.

Public Works.

4. The principal public work undertaken last year was the reconstruction of the chapel and school-room at Virgin Gorda, which was completed at a cost of 142*l.* 17*s.* 7½*d.* In this reconstruction I only undertook at the expense of the public the repair of the fabric, leaving all interior fittings to be completed at the expense of the congregation. There is now a Reader and Catechist at Virgin Gorda, licensed by the Bishop of Antigua, who performs Divine Service every Sunday. The chapel is used during the week as a school-room. A sum of 28*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* was expended on an office for the sub-treasurer, and 25*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* upon roads in addition to the "Statute Labour." 18*l.* 17*s.* 10¾*d.* was expended upon small repairs. There are several other public works and repairs urgently needed, the execution of which must be delayed until the Public Debt is paid.

Legislation.

5. Six Ordinances were passed in 1864; namely,

An Ordinance to repeal an Extradition Act passed in 1852, the provisions of which latter Act were inconsistent with the Imperial Statute 25 & 26 Vict. cap. 70.

An Ordinance for providing a Market Place in Road Town, and for the management and protection of the same. The necessity of this law is obvious.

An Ordinance to provide for the Relief of the Poor.

An Ordinance to facilitate the transfer of land.

An Ordinance to give effect to the arrangements made with respect to the Public Debt.

And an Ordinance to repeal the Tax on the Produce of the Colony.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Poor Law.

6. The most important of these Ordinances is that for the relief of the poor, which embodies the principal points of the pre-existing (unprinted) poor laws, with some important modifications and additions. The class of persons eligible for relief is defined to be "every person without means of subsistence, and unable from old age, disease, or "other incapacity, wholly or in part to maintain himself, and having no husband, wife, or "parent or child able to support him." Sick "paupers" or, in cases of accident, any "disabled person" may be sent to the Infirmary, and there receive support and medical aid. But the greater part of the relief is given in small allowances of 9*d.* or 1*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* a week. With this help, the assistance of neighbours, and perhaps the produce of a few square feet of land, most of the aged poor are able to maintain themselves with more comfort than if they were assembled in a workhouse, while the resources of the Colony would be totally inadequate to maintain in a workhouse one half of the persons now receiving relief. Provision has been made in the Ordinance, for the first time, for compelling the fathers of illegitimate children relieved at the public expense to repay the amount of such relief into the Treasury. The whole relief of the poor is placed under the management of five guardians nominated by the Governor. The total cost of relief last year (exclusive of the salary of the surgeon to the Infirmary) was 193*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* The total number of paupers receiving relief was 59.

7. The lands in the Colony are so much sub-divided among the negroes that the value of each particular parcel of land is often not more than 3*l.* to 5*l.*; and the cost of preparing titles, according to the old prolix forms, was so great that many estates were bought, and are still held in unequal undivided shares among the several individuals who originally clubbed together to buy the estate. The confusion which this produces, and the litigation which ensues from it, is already considerable, but will increase every year. A short land-transfer Ordinance was therefore passed legalizing the transfer or mortgage of land by a short form of words adopted from the Imperial Statute 25 & 26 Vict. cap. 53. On the passing of the Ordinance I caused 100 copies of the authorized form of transfer to be printed at Antigua in blank. These are sold at the Registry Office to all intending purchasers of land at 9*d.* each. These forms being filled in with the names of the parties and other particulars may be registered at once, and a complete registered title is thus obtainable for 4*s.* 6*d.* I annex one of the forms. This Ordinance will be found very valuable.

8. The other Ordinances do not appear to call for notice. I have referred to the Ordinance for the payment of the "Consolidated Debt" under the head of the Public Debt.

Population.

9. The population of the Virgin Islands is given in the Blue Book from the census of 1861, namely, 6,051. It appears from the Registry of Births and Deaths that the population is increasing. The following table shows the increase for the last five years :—

Years.	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1860	54	242	116	126
1861	27	222	143	79
1862	29	217	149	68
1863	29	273	163	110
1864	37	227	157	70
Totals - -	176	1,181	728	453

The deaths being thus to the births as 10 to 16, it follows from Euler's tables, that, without disturbing causes, as emigration,* the population would double in 42 years. Nearly 42 per cent. of the births last year were illegitimate; the numbers being 132 legitimate to 95 illegitimate children. Of the immorality which such a state of things discloses, I can say nothing. Chastity is certainly not a virtue of the West Indian negroes, but their very indifference to it does away with the misery and wretchedness that generally attend the birth of illegitimate children in England. As there is no great

* Large numbers of young men and women annually seek employment in St. Thomas.

shame attached to the birth of an illegitimate child, there is no temptation to conceal it. I have not heard of any case of infanticide during the three years I have been here. Until last year there was no law (as I have before stated) to compel the father of an illegitimate child to contribute to its support; but there is seldom any reluctance to do so.

Health of Infants.

10. It will be seen from the subjoined table that of the whole number of persons who died last year, 17 per cent. were children under the age of one year. When it is remembered that eleven-twelfths of the inhabitants are totally destitute of all medical assistance whatever, this proportion will not seem large. The following table is taken from the records in the Registry Office:—

	Numbers who died in 1864.
Under the age of 1 year - - -	27
Above 1 year and under 2 - -	5
„ 2 years „ 5 - - -	12
„ 5 „ „ 10 - - -	7
„ 10 „ „ 20 - - -	11
„ 20 „ „ 30 - - -	18
„ 30 „ „ 40 - - -	12
„ 40 „ „ 50 - - -	17
„ 50 „ „ 60 - - -	3
„ 60 „ „ 70 - - -	13
„ 70 „ „ 80 - - -	11
„ 80 „ „ 90 - - -	12
„ 90 „ „ 100 - - -	2
Aged 100 „ - - - - -	3
„ 102 „ - - - - -	1
„ 110 „ - - - - -	1
Total - - -	155

Of the children under five years of age above named, 14 died from hooping cough. I should scarcely think that the ages of those who are said to have been above 90 can be trustworthy, though I have seen some instances here of extreme old age among the Africans, where the grand-children of persons still living are past middle age. I attribute the comparative healthiness of the infant population, in spite of the want of medical aid, to the fact that the mothers are almost always employed about their own houses and grounds, and do not have to leave their homes and children to work upon estates.

Education.

11. There are nine day schools now established in the Colony, with an aggregate of 556 children. These schools receive grants from the Colonial Treasury at the rate of 5*s.* a year for each scholar. The grant is limited to children under the age of 12 years. The education is quite sufficient for ordinary purposes. No child under five is admitted into the schools. No schools are admitted to share in the grant where the average attendance is less than 20. I estimate the number of children in small private schools (which do not appear in the Blue Book), and those above 12 years of age attending the Government schools, at 100, making a total of 660 children receiving daily instruction. There are also many children who attend the Sunday schools. In addition to the grant of 80*l.* for schools, 140*l.* was spent last year on the Virgin Gorda schoolhouse. There is another schoolhouse in a state of utter decay, but there are no funds immediately available for its reconstruction. On the whole, I consider that the *means* of education provided is now sufficient for the wants of the population, but the indifference of many of the parents to the need of education is the chief obstacle to its general diffusion.

Imports and Exports.

12. The imports of 1864 show a decrease upon those of 1863 of 727*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*; the amounts being, in 1863, 8,875*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, and in 1864, 8,148*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* The decrease is partly owing to wrecked goods having been imported in 1863 to the amount of 551*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* The principal articles of import in 1864 were flour and breadstuffs,

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

4,492*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, linen and cotton and dry goods to the value of 1,199*l.*, and miscellaneous articles to the value of 2,456*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*

13. The exports in 1864 were 12,306*l.* 16*s.*; those of 1863 were 11,676*l.* 17*s.*; showing an increase of 629*l.* 19*s.* due solely to the cultivation of cotton. The principal articles of export were cattle and live stock, valued at 9,796*l.* 16*s.*, cotton valued at 1,110*l.*, charcoal valued at 565*l.* 3*s.*, and sundry articles valued at 834*l.* 17*s.*

Agriculture.

14. It is very difficult to estimate with any approach to correctness the quantity of produce or stock raised in this Colony. The greater part of the soil is owned by negroes, who cultivate small patches of sugar-cane or cotton, but subsist chiefly by the sale of horned cattle and goats (of which 4,139 head were exported last year), and by the sale of potatoes, cassava, and other provisions. It is stated that there are 20 sugar estates wholly cultivated on the Métairie system, one cotton estate, and 14 abandoned estates. By reference to page 138, it will be seen that there are no less than 585 freeholders, and 1,119 persons paying direct taxes. As the population is little over 6,000, it follows that one in every ten is a freeholder, and one in every six of the whole population is possessed of sufficient property to be directly taxed. The direct taxes, which embrace so large a part of the population, are, the land tax, of 2*d.* an acre, and the cattle tax of 1*s.* per head per annum. The latter tax is largely evaded by the negroes living in different parts of the Island, and a revision of the cattle tax ordinance and the adoption of some more stringent method of collecting the tax is urgently demanded, both for the improvement of the Revenue and the protection of honest taxpayers. The tax was paid last year on 1,898 head only of horned cattle, producing 94*l.* 18*s.*, while the Customs returns show that 1,414 head paid duty on exportation. It is, clear from this that there must be a large evasion of the tax, since only a portion of the annual increase is exported.

15. During the year 1864 the Encumbered Estates Acts were brought into force for the first time, and eight estates were sold under decrees of the Local Commissioner. These estates were all hopelessly encumbered, and, under the management of the Court of Chancery, had been mostly abandoned. I annex a list of the estates sold, and of the prices they realized.

List of Encumbered Estates in Tortola sold in the year 1864, under authority of the Local Commissione r

Name of Estate.	Acres.	Price realized.	How long Estate had been in Chancery.
		£ *s.* *d.*	Years.
Cooten Bay - - - -	200	150 0 0	35
Spring Gut - - - -	120	40 0 0	35
Johnson's Gut - - -	170	201 0 0	35
Appleby - - - -	50	82 0 0	35
Cappoon's Bay - - -	30	41 0 0	35
Joe's Hill - - - -	130	410 0 0	44
Diamond - - - -	30	35 10 0	44
Hawk's Nest - - -	50	19 10 0	44
Total - - -	780	£979 0 0	—

No capital had been invested in these estates for many years and they had gradually passed out of cultivation, with the exception of some small patches in two of the estates. The creation of safe and absolute titles may perhaps encourage the importation and investment of capital here, but I doubt whether the cultivation of sugar could ever be renewed here advantageously. Although the soil and climate are sufficiently favourable, the extremely hilly character of the Island increases the cost of production so much as to make it unprofitable at the ordinary prices. The single ridge which forms the Island of Tortola is from 800 to 2,000 feet high, and the sides are so steep that they can only be cultivated in terraces supported by low stone walls. There are some fertile spots between the foot of the ridge and the sea, but of no great extent. The cost of carrying canes to the mill would alone be sufficient to make the cultivation of sugar unprofitable. But the industry of the people is rightly directed to cotton; the soil, the climate are both favourable, and the experience of last year promises great success to those who embark in cotton cultivation.

Gaols and Prisoners.

16. Thirty-one prisoners in all were committed to prison in the course of the year 1864, three of whom were sentenced by the General Court to terms of imprisonment, varying from three to eighteen months; and 28 were committed by the magistrates in petty sessions for periods varying from two weeks to two months, mostly in default of payment of fine or sureties. I annex hereto a list of the offences.

17. The Infirmary for the sick poor is permanently inhabited by six blind, lame, or deformed paupers. There are no inmates in the small-pox hospital. One case of small-pox was taken from St. Thomas to Virgin Gorda last year; but on learning the fact, I forthwith provided a good nurse for the patient, and directed the neighbouring constables to take charge of the house and prevent all communication. The patient soon recovered, and the disease did not spread.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. R. LONGDEN,
President, Virgin Islands.

His Excellency Governor Hill, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Dated this day of
one thousand eight hundred and

I of
in consideration of pounds paid to me,
grant to , and his heirs or assigns for ever,
all that parcel of land situate in one of the British Virgin
Islands, containing acres, or thereabouts, and bounded as
follows:

Witnesses
of
of

RETURN of OFFENCES of PRISONERS committed in the year 1864 to the Common Gaol in the Road Town of TORTOLA.

By the General Court:		
Stealing a cow	1	
Breaking into a shop	1	
Escaping from turnkey	1	
	—	3
By the Magistrates in Petty Sessions:		
Assaults	12	
Stealing (under 50*s.*)	4	
Threatening to assault (in default of eureties)	3	
Setting on dog to worry a hog	1	
Unlawfully killing a hog	1	
Resisting police	1	
Trespass	1	
Indecent language	1	
Selling rum without licence	1	
Non-payment of road tax	2	
Non-attendance at drill as a militia man	1	
	—	28
		31
By Assistant Judge of General Court:		
Debt	1	

DOMINICA.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 43.)

SIR, Leeward Islands, Antigua, 21st August 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Despatch from the Administrator of the Government of Dominica, forwarding the Blue Book of that Colony for the year ended the 31st December 1864.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 51.)

SIR, Government House, Roseau, July 31, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Dominica for the year 1864, together with a letter from the Treasurer explanatory of the delay which has occurred in the preparation of these returns, a delay which I regret, and for which I beg to apologize.

2. Not having administered the government of this Colony during any portion of 1864, I refrain from offering observations on documents relating to a period with which I had no personal acquaintance.

3. On the 31st December 1864, our outstanding liabilities (consisting of unpaid salaries and contingent claims, and exclusive of the amounts due to Her Majesty's Government and to the Colonial Bank) amounted to 3,590*l.*, which, the revenue not being equal to the expenditure, had by the 31st March increased to 4,258*l.* In the month of May the Assembly addressed itself in earnest to the task of extricating the Colony from these serious financial embarrassments, and the following money Bills were passed:—

(1.) An Act to raise a fund in aid of the Revenue of the Island.

(2.) An Act to raise by loan a sum of money for the service of the Island, and to provide a Fund for repayment of the same.

The former increased pre-existing taxation by about 800*l.* per annum, and brought the revenue up to the expenditure; the latter authorizes the Governor in Council to raise by loan at 7½ per cent. a sum of 6,000*l.*, for the purpose of liquidating the public debt and repairing the Government buildings; and provides, by special taxation, for the creation of a sinking fund for the repayment of the amount raised, at the expiration of any period not exceeding 15 years.

4. In April an important alteration of the Constitution was effected, by the passing of an Act (not yet in operation, but which has been favourably received by Her Majesty's Government,) to reduce the Legislative Assembly from nine Crown nominees and nineteen elected members, as at present, to seven Crown nominees and seven elected members, —the Governor to preside over the deliberations of the Assembly, and have a casting vote in the House, and a deliberative as well as a casting vote in committee.

5. During the present year, then, a practicable scheme for the adjustment of the finances has been adopted, and an alteration in the form of government effected, which cannot fail to have a momentous influence on the future of the Colony; and though I believe, that, strictly speaking, these matters should be recorded only in next year's report, I am induced by their great importance to anticipate that document and to refer to them on the present occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON,
Administrator.

His Excellency Governor Hill, C.B.,
Antigua.

MAURITIUS.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HENRY BARKLY, K.C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(Separate.)

SIR, Mauritius, July 5, 1865.

IN transmitting the Mauritius Blue Book of 1864, I shall, according to custom, pass in review the principal returns which compose it.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

2. Remain unaltered, the rates imposed by Ordinance No. 33, of 1863, on the import of rice and other grain to meet railway liabilities, produced the anticipated amount, and were continued without opposition for the present year. As indeed they scarcely exceed the registration duty still levied on corn in the mother country, and fall lightly and equally on all classes, it will be well for the Legislature to consider, whenever the working of the railways shall permit a reduction of taxation, whether there are not other duties pressing much more severely on the springs of industry to be first repealed.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The comparative statement for 1863 and 1864 will be found satisfactory, though both sides of the account in the latter are swollen by the railway transactions as before noticed.

4. The actual nett revenue was, as already reported, 622,285*l.*, and the actual nett expenditure 584,254*l.*, leaving a balance of 38,031*l.* to be added to the accummulated capital of the Colony.

5. The Treasury balance, as will be seen, on the 31st December 1864 was no less than 159,140*l.*, enough fortunately to enable the railway works to be carried on, at a time when, owing to the monetary pressure in Great Britain, no further portion of the loan could have been raised.

Local Revenues.

6. The revenue of the Municipality of Port Louis is given at only 48,000*l.* in lieu of 63,000*l.* as estimated in its budget, and though the expenditure of necessity figures at the same amount, outstanding accounts for no less than 13,000*l.* appear in the budget of the present year, to cover which and provide for the increased claims of the Government it is proposed to create a new issue of debentures for 16,820*l.*

7. This unfortunate state of things seems to be principally due to no more serious cause than the non-collection of rates and taxes. It was, however, aggravated by want of harmony between the mayor and deputy mayor, who were ranged on opposite sides in the movement for Reform which, I mentioned in my last Blue Book Despatch, had sprung up in the bosom of the Council. The party who supported that movement having gained the day, so far at least as carrying its report on the financial mismanagement which existed, I, of course, had recourse to its members in the selection which I had to make of a mayor and deputy mayor from six councillors whose names were submitted to me; I trust that the new administration will succeed in extricating the town from its pecuniary difficulties. The plan proposed resolves itself into contracting a loan for 100,000*l.* in London or Paris, with a view to extinguish all former debentures, pay off current liabilities, and start once more clear. As the value of rateable property in Port Louis is over two millions and a half sterling (2,540,390*l.*), the expectation of raising such a loan would not be unreasonable, provided confidence in the financial management of the corporation were once more restored. This, I fear, must be a work of time, but some wholesome improvements in the way of transacting the business have been already introduced, and I do not despair of municipal affairs righting themselves without any necessity arising for legislative intervention.

Military Expenditure.

8. No alteration under this head is shown. The total outlay for the troops and defences amounted as before to 137,000*l.*, of which the Colony defrayed 32,000*l.* The future contribution was, however, raised during the year to a fixed sum of 45,000*l.*, say about one-third, instead of less than a fourth of the whole,—probably a more equitable

MAURITIUS.

apportionment of Imperial and Colonial requirements, though the step is very unpalatable to the colonists, who complain that they are not consulted as to the extent of the garrison. The orders, subsequently received from the Horse Guards, to reduce the allowances to staff and regimental officers, has not tended to allay the irritation, the correspondence which resulted in the increased contribution having originated in the alleged insufficiency of those provided in the schedule then in force.

Civil Establishments.

9. The cost of these is still slowly augmenting through the operation of the system of increments adopted in 1859, which has now, however, in all probability nearly attained its maximum. The actual expenditure of the year was 234,872*l.*, about 10,000*l.* below the estimate, but a heavy charge, nevertheless, for conducting the business of so small a colony, though, as explained in a Despatch in which I reported specially on the subject, justifiable by reason of the peculiar social condition; the labouring population having been transplanted from India within a comparatively recent period, and, simultaneously with the loosening of the restraints of caste and ties of family, exposed to the novel temptations and unwonted independence of high wages.

10. The comparison which I then instituted with the establishments of Ceylon showed in fact that, though Mauritius is a far dearer country, the salaries of almost all the leading officials are much lower than there, and that the secretariat, the treasury, the internal revenue, survey and public works departments, are infinitely more costly in that Island, the total expenditure being brought to an equality solely by the excess here incurred for immigration, quarantine, medical, educational, and police services, requisite for recruiting, receiving, and watching over the Indian population on the one hand, and civilizing, restraining, and punishing it on the other.

Public Works.

11. Still languish—none of importance having been undertaken during the year. Some useful buildings were, however, completed or extended, amongst which the conversion of a store at Grand River into the Vagrant Depôt, the construction of new dormitories at the Indian Orphan Asylum, and the additions to the Lunatic Asylum may be cited. The total expenditure on works and buildings, including painting and incidental repairs, was about 38,000*l.* That on roads, bridges, &c., 33,250*l.* The improvement of the Government offices can be no longer delayed with any regard to the convenience of the public and the health of the officials. A beginning will be made this year in the erection of the new post office, the removal of which to another site will afford room for the enlargement of other Departments.

Railway Expenditure.

12. The amount expended in the construction of the North and Midland lines was far larger than during the preceding year, the contractors having exerted themselves to deliver over the former by May 1864. The Midland line, though due last October, is not yet completed, and will consequently be too late to be of much use in the ensuing crop. The total payments in Mauritius stood at 353,655*l.*, and in England at 115,185*l.*, making together 468,840*l.*; the outlay from the commencement to the 31st December 1864, having been 1,045,000*l.* This left about 300,000*l.* (including premiums on debentures) of the amount authorized still to be expended, sufficient beyond all doubt for the completion of the Midland line and the works at the central terminus, though it will require vigilance, as pointed out in my Minute to Council of the 2nd December last, No. 74, to prevent excess of expenditure.

Public Debt.

13. Only 600,000*l.* out of the million authorized to be borrowed for the railways appears in last year's Blue Book, but 300,000*l.* has subsequently been raised, and the remaining 100,000*l.* will probably be needed before the close of the present year. A sinking fund has already begun to be created.

Legislation.

Enclosure.

14. I enclose the usual report from the Procureur General on this subject; it will be seen that three out of the 27 ordinances passed were more or less connected with the railways, one for regulating the traffic, another to enable the remainder of the loan to be negotiated on more favourable terms, and a third to continue the additional customs' duties for meeting the interest and sinking fund prior to the opening of the lines.

15. Other important subjects engaged the attention of the Council of Government, including the improvement of the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Laws, of the law regulating the transfer and mortgaging of real estate, and the consolidation of the various enactments on the subject of the paper currency. On the details of these measures I will not enter, as they are clearly and succinctly set forth by Mr. Dickson, but I most willingly endorse his statement as to the cordial co-operation which the Executive always meets from the inofficial as well as official members of that body.

Imports and Exports.

16. The value of imports in 1864 was about 40,000*l.* in excess of that of 1863, but this was simply owing to a larger influx of specie, most of which found its way out of the Colony again.

The real comparison exhibits the two years as	£2,137,127
	2,238,846
Or a falling off of - -	£101,719

This result was to be expected from the shortness of the sugar crops, only 233,440,100 lbs. French, worth 2,121,385*l.*, having been exported, against 275,548,751, worth 2,494,558*l.*, in the present year. As there was a trifling deficiency in the value of other articles, the comparison of exports stands,—

1863 - - - - -	£2,661,098
1864 - - - - -	2,249,740
Falling off - - -	£411,358

The value of exports thus stated exceeding that of imports by 112,613*l.* Of the exports about one half went to Great Britain, and about a fourth to Australia, the remainder going to the Cape, India, and other British possessions, with the exception of a seventh, which was divided between France and Spain. Of the imports India furnished one third, Great Britain (deducting specie) two sevenths, and France about a fifth.

Shipping.

17. The extent of tonnage entered inwards and outwards declined, as a natural consequence of the falling off in trade. The number of vessels cleared with cargoes was 528 of the burden of tons 193,648, against 556 of the burden of tons 206,814, British and foreign decreasing so equally as still to preserve the relative proportions of two to one.

Immigration.

18. The accompanying report* of the Protector shows that, notwithstanding the anticipated restrictive effect of the new Act of the Government of India, which came into operation in the middle of the year, the number of immigrants introduced was considerably larger than in 1863, though still far below that of antecedent years.

* Not printed.

19. The comparative statement given by Mr. Beyts of the immigration from each of the three Presidencies proves that diminution still exists at Madras, where, as you are aware, a special inquiry is now going on as to its cause. It will be seen from Table B. in the Appendix that, in spite of the aggregate increase, the male adults arriving were but a fourth of those applied for, viz., 5,234, against requisitions for 15,506 unsatisfied.

20. These requisitions may have been swollen by the fear that a good many of the 30,000 men whose engagements expired during the year would leave the estates, but though a certain proportion may have betaken themselves to other pursuits, but few availed themselves of the opportunity to quit the Colony, the emigration scarcely exceeding that of the preceding year. In this and other respects the immigration system has stood the severe test of the expiration of the five years of industrial residence of a large proportion of the labouring population during the last two years, very satisfactorily; no less than 61,280 old immigrants having re-engaged themselves during 1864, in the great majority of instances to their old masters, and some even for a further period of five years' service.

21. Facts such as these throw truer light on the relations between the immigrants and their employers than the statements of complaints mutually preferred, given in the Appendix, which, however, I am glad to say shows an improvement on last year. The

MAURITIUS.

principal matter, as Mr. Beyts points out, remaining to be remedied, is the last of which the immigrants would complain, the want, namely, of proper medical care. An amendment of the law as regards hospitals, &c., is in preparation by the Procureur General, but unless it can be made to confer on the medical attendant the same power of ordering the detention of patients therein as is possessed by doctors in the army and navy, I am almost afraid it will not produce much effect, the greatest of all obstacles being the aversion of the Indians to restrictions on their movements or dietary.

22. The health of the immigrants on their voyage hither was not quite so good as in 1863, when the mortality fell to the extraordinarily low rate of ·7 per cent., and no vessel had to be placed in quarantine. In spite, however, of outbreaks of cholera and small-pox in three of the vessels from Bombay, which necessitated their immigrants being placed in the larazet on their arrival, the average mortality only rose to 1·4 per cent., which would be considered satisfactory in any other service. I must own I was astonished to find during the recent correspondence as to the new Indian Emigration Act, officials of high rank alluding to the *excessive mortality* which they assumed to exist on the voyage hither as a ground for new restrictions.

Population.

23. The total population on the 31st December 1864 is estimated at 325,603, which would give an increase of only 2,349 over 1863, notwithstanding the introduction of 7,575 immigrants. This fact is to some extent accounted for by the disproportion of the sexes in that class of the population.

The number of births among the Indians does not nearly equal the deaths, nor unfortunately does it do so among the ex-apprentices, though the cause is not so apparent. In the general population alone, *i.e.*, those principally of European origin, is any evidence of a sounder state of things to be found.

24. Although, however, sexual disparity explains in part the non-increase of the population, it is clearly shown in the accompanying report * from the General Sanitary Inspector, that the death-rate in Mauritius is far above what it ought to be. In Port Louis, for example, though no epidemic raged during the past year, the mortality is estimated at no less than 4·3 per cent., whilst even in the rural districts it was so high as merely to reduce the general average of the Colony to 3·79.

* Not printed.

25. Some of the measures of sanitary reform insisted on by Dr. Edwards will shortly be brought by me under the consideration of the Legislative Council, and as his able exposé of the evils which prevail has excited a sensation in the public mind, I am sanguine that they will be well received, and that steps will ere long be taken likewise by the Municipality to drain and cleanse the capital.

26. Though I have not been able, chiefly from the peculiar functions which the French code assigns to the officers of the civil status, to make them useful as I had hoped in the collection of fuller statistical information, it is so far satisfactory to me to be able to present in this excellent report of the Sanitary Inspector, as correct a picture as can be given of the vital statistics of the Colony for the last six years, with the deductions to be drawn from them.

Ecclesiastical Return.

27. The ecclesiastical establishments of the Colony have remained without material alteration for several years past, the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Scotch Presbyterian, and Independent churches each receiving contributions from the State in proportion to their supposed spiritual hold over the population. It seems to me, however, that the time has come when a more liberal policy should be adopted, and systematic efforts on the part of these several religious denominations encouraged for the evangelization, not only of the ex-apprentices, many of whom are sunk in ignorance and vice, but of the Indians settled in the Island.

28. I would by no means advocate the undue interference of missionaries with the latter, especially during the period of industrial residence, which they are bound to fulfil on their introduction; but as soon as that is over and they have shown their intention of remaining here, and exercising all the rights and duties of citizenship, I consider that the State is deeply interested in their conversion to Christianity.

29. As matters stand, their caste is broken, their religious faith shaken, so much so that their children (now numbering twenty to thirty thousand) are growing up with scarcely the vestige of a creed; and yet little or nothing is done to rescue them from heathen degradations and immorality, beyond visiting them with the severest penalty of the law for any flagrant breach.

It is absolutely necessary indeed to do this, for in such a population crime is rife, and unless something can be done to check its spread, it will become more and more difficult to protect life and property. I know of no remedy but the diffusion of the Gospel. The State cannot undertake, indeed, to inculcate its principles any more than it can teach Hinduism, but it can lend a helping hand to the missionaries already engaged in this work, and can hold out such inducements as will lead the Christian Churches of the Colony to devote themselves more largely to it than, through their own unassisted efforts, has been possible. On this point I purpose addressing you more definitely by the ensuing mail.

Education.

30. It might seem at first as if the State could best effect these objects, so far at least as the rising generation is concerned, through its schools; but it must be borne in mind that, owing to the unfortunate differences which here, as elsewhere, divide Christians themselves, the instruction given is exclusively and scrupulously secular.

31. Under such a system an Indian child may acquire knowledge enough of physical science to disturb its religious convictions, but it cannot be supplied with others in their stead.

32. Moreover, as mentioned in my Despatch with last year's Blue Book, but a very small proportion of Indian children participate in the advantages either of Government or grant-in-aid schools.

33. That proportion, I am happy to say, is increasing, no less than 12 new Indian schools having, as will be seen from the enclosed report * from the Government superintendent, been established during 1864.

* Not printed.

34. In other respects, likewise, the progress of education, though slow, will be found satisfactory,—the number of scholars on the roll of Government schools at the end of the year having risen from 2,277 to 2,646, and of schools assisted by grants from 2,234 to 2,275, showing a total increase of 410 scholars.

35. The Royal College continues to augment the number of its pupils.

Savings' Bank.

36. I forward the manager's report * on the proceedings of this institution for 1864, which has just reached me. I am happy to perceive that the frauds perpetrated in the previous year, though they necessitated the calling in of the depositors' books, have not diminished their confidence in the institution, the number on the 31st December last being 6,545 or 12·45 per cent. in excess of 1862, and the amount of their deposits 162,897*l.*, an excess of 9·55 per cent.

* Not printed.

37. As the great majority of these depositors are Indian immigrants, these facts speak well for the increasing prudence and economy of that class of the community.

Charitable Institutions.

38. Before passing on to those usually included in this category, I take the opportunity of calling attention to the report * of the Central Poor Relief Committee for the year 1863, the latest published, because it shows that, whatever difficulties that board may have in controlling the district committees, and however needlessly extravagant may be the expenditure of the latter, pauperism is an evil of extremely limited proportions in Mauritius, and one which, notwithstanding the vast increase of population in the last ten years, shows little tendency to increase. In 1853 the total number relieved in the rural districts was 631; in 1863, 693;—whilst the number refused at the former period was 68 against only 44 at the latter.

* Not printed.

39. An amendment of the law, including arrangements as to settlement, more favourable to the municipal authorities of Port Louis than those which now exist, is in course of preparation.

40. I have little to add to what I stated last year as to the principal public charities —the Indian Orphan Asylum, the Civil Hospital, and the Lunatic Asylum. I have inspected each of them more than once during the interval, and have communicated my views as to the two latter, after my visits.

41. I still continue to think that both are as well managed as their situation and circumstances admit, and though, since the publication here of the opinions which I expressed to that effect in my Blue Book Despatch of last year, statements to the contrary have been put forward by the local press in respect to the Civil Hospital, and deficiencies in regard to the supply of medicines, surgical instruments, and other appliances alleged, the result of my inquiries convinces me that these complaints are unfounded.

MAURITIUS.

42. It is my intention, however, to appoint a commission of qualified persons to consider whether the buildings in either case are susceptible of extension or improvement, or if they be not so, to what site it would be expedient to remove, and what plans of construction should be adopted. Great difference of opinion exists, as previously mentioned, as to whether a warm or cold situation is best suited for the usual class of lunatics in this Colony; and, even though the present position of the Civil Hospital is generally condemned, it will be by no means easy to find a locality for a new one as convenient in case of accidents in the streets, on the railways, or on board the shipping, so accessible as a seaman's hospital or so near the residence of the out-door patients seeking its aid.

* Not printed.

43. I enclose the annual reports * of both institutions, which are satisfactory.

Gaols and Prisons.

44. The statistics of the principal place of confinement, the Port Louis prison, are as usual, contributed by the Procureur General as chairman of the managing committee.

45 Though showing an apparent decrease of commitments, from 11,778 to 8,023, they are far from indicating any decrease of crime, the diminution being solely owing to the steps taken in the earlier part of the year for sending deserters, vagrants, and other offenders, tried before the stipendiary magistrates, to a separate establishment.

46. This separation was not merely expedient on moral grounds, but had become imperatively necessary from the crowded state of the prisons throughout the Island. Indeed, I do not know what could have been done in Port Louis last year if the same number of vagrants as before had been sent to the prison, as there would then have been 1,500 more committals than in 1863, when the daily lock-up at times was not far short of 1,000 prisoners.

47. In the rural districts, also, the Government has been able to prevent over-crowding, and avert the outbreak of fever, by transferring this class of prisoners to the Grand River Vagrant Depôt. Though too soon as yet to judge of its effects in repressing vagrancy, this institution is admitted on all sides to be working well, its success being in great part due, I feel bound to add, to the zeal and ability with which the Inspector-General of Police, Major Anson, R.A., has devoted himself to its organization.

48. Besides the foundation of the Vagrant Depôt, the year 1864 was distinguished by the first practical step being taken towards the erection of a greater desideratum still—a General Penitentiary; the Legislative Council having approved of the recommendations in my Minute on the subject, and appropriated a sum of 15,000*l.* on the annual estimates as a first instalment for the purpose. I am sorry to add that the Department of Public Works has been too short handed as yet to complete the plans and specifications.

Crime.

* Not printed.

49. Mr. Dickson's report * on this part of his subject shows that the increase of prisoners has not arisen altogether from minor offences, but that the annual augmentation in the number of serious cases tried by the Supreme Court alluded to last year still continued. This augmentation was due to larcenies of property with violence; direct attacks upon the person, viz., murder, manslaughter, and aggravated assaults having, I am glad to say, been fewer than for several years past.

50. All these crimes are mainly perpetrated by the Indian portion of the population, generally speaking upon their own countrymen, the immigrants manifesting a strong disposition to introduce the system of dacoitee, or gaj robbery, so prevalent in India, and being also prone to murder either for the sake of plunder or from motives of revenge, arising in many instances from quarrels about women.

51. I entered into all these points, however, so fully when replying to the inquiries in the Duke of Newcastle's Circular Despatch as to the amount and description of crime among the Indian immigrants, that I feel it to be unnecessary to go over the same ground on the present occasion. The careful tables then forwarded from the Procureur-General's Office showed that, in the five years ending with 1863, no less than 157 murders were committed in this Colony, or on the average over 31 per annum; that 57 per cent. of these murders were attributable to jealousy; and that of the 225 persons suspected of participation seven alone suffered the extreme punishment of the law, 11 were sentenced to death but reprieved, and 64 convicted of less than the capital felony charged against them; leaving 143, or upwards of 60 per cent. of the whole number, to get off either through acquittal or non-detection.

52. These figures present a startling and melancholy picture in so comparatively small a community, and I earnestly trust it will be practicable to effect improvement ere long. To the possibility of promoting that result by moral and religious culture, I have already alluded. How far it can be achieved by a vigorous administration of the law remains to

be proved. It is evident from the facts above quoted that leniency has had no good effect; and, painful as it is to my own feelings, I see no alternative but to abstain, except where the Judges entertain any doubt of the propriety of the verdict, from any interference with the course of law. Such a mode of proceeding is rendered doubly painful indeed by the fact that here, as elsewhere, at the present day there exists a widespread aversion to the infliction of capital punishment, and a singular sympathy with the convicted murderer. Yet, surely humanity itself suggests that it would be better for 10 guilty men every year to expiate their crimes on the gallows, striking terror thereby into the hearts of those otherwise disposed to follow the example of their crimes, than for 30 innocent persons to be annually hurried without preparation into eternity.

General Remarks.

53. Upon the whole, as may be gathered from my remarks, nothing very noteworthy occurred in the affairs of the Colony during the first year of my government. It was by no means, I fear, a prosperous year to the planters, owing to a short crop, not compensated, as expected at its commencement, by a continuance of high prices.

54. It may be described, indeed, as a year of disappointment rather than of ruinous loss. Not only were the hopes entertained of the abolition of the discriminating duties on the higher qualities of sugar—which press so severely on the manufacturing industry of this Colony—not fulfilled; not only did the general reduction of duties substituted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer fail to give the relief in this respect anticipated, but the same crisis in the European money market which, notwithstanding, lowered the value of sugar 12*s.* to 15*s.* per cwt., prevented the three Credit Foncier Companies formed in connexion with Mauritius from raising their capital, and consequently from making advances on the favourable terms previously promised. About 300,000*l.*, however, has, I understood, been invested in securities in this Island on that principle; and as the money market has now recovered its wonted course, I presume these associations will extend their operations here. On the other hand, as the crop which is now commencing promises to turn out above the average (viz., 140,000 tons), and the price of sugar, though still low, is gradually reviving, I trust that when the Blue Book for 1865 is forwarded a more flourishing state of affairs may be reported.

The Dependencies.

55. I have already transmitted the Civil Commissioner's account of the Seychelles Islands.

56. You have also received and expressed your approval of the report made by Mr. Farquharson, the Magistrate whom I despatched in H.M.S. "Rapid" to visit the smaller dependencies, and to inquire into the condition of the labourers employed therein.

57. The commercial position of all these groups has been adversely affected by the great decline in the price of cocoa-nut oil, their principal product, consequent on the petroleum spring discoveries in America. As you are aware, however, measures are in progress for placing the titles to land in all these dependencies on such a footing as will encourage the investment of capital, and the introduction of improved machinery for the expression of oil, so that it is not improbable they will at no distant date recover their wonted prosperity.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

Legislation.

Several important subjects engaged the attention of the Local Legislature in 1864.

Among these were the Laws on Bankruptcy and Insolvency, which had been passed in 1853 and 1856, and required amendment.

The chief defects of the Bankruptcy Law were the length of certain of the periods for notices, and the cumbrousness of the formalities for the sale of the bankrupt estate. The rules on the former of these heads having been taken from the English, and on the latter from the French law, had to be modified in order to be appropriate to a small country, and to facilitate the realizing of the bankrupt's estate.

With the same view the procedure was simplified in several other respects.

Means were also provided for the conservation of the bankrupt's real property until it

MAURITIUS.

could be sold; a few weeks of abandonment in a tropical country, especially of a sugar estate, causing great deterioration.

The ordinance also places the granting of certificates of discharge on a more strict and regular footing; and it contains measures for promoting the prosecution of fraudulent bankrupts.

While not abolishing the distinction between bankruptcy and insolvency, the law enables non-traders, on giving up all their assets to their creditors, to obtain a discharge upon satisfying the judge that their debts were not improperly contracted.

This change was essential in a country where, from the land being chiefly devoted to sugar cultivation, its owners are exposed to the vicissitudes of varying and sometimes fickle foreign markets.

The law for the transmission and mortgaging of real estate, on which important changes had been made in 1863, was amended with a view to securing still more effectually the purchaser or lender against privileged claims and latent defects of title. This law (No. 20 of 1864) is an important development of the changes of the preceding year. It has removed many of the objections which European capitalists had to invest money in land and landed securities in the Colony.

The principle of the law of 1862, which allowed immigrant labourers to be engaged in India for five years' service in Mauritius, was extended by No. 18 of 1864 so as to allow similar contracts to be made in the Colony; and certain contracts of service for that period which had been entered into before magistrates, upon the erroneous supposition that they were competent at the time, were legalized, a measure necessary for public order and the prevention of vagrancy, no less than for giving effect to the true intentions of the parties.

The subject of vagrancy was more fully dealt with by an Ordinance which enabled the Government to remove that class of offenders from the common gaols to special prisons called vagrant depôts, from which they might be sent to employment at public works.

The overcrowding of the gaols by this class of prisoners, whose only offence was idleness, and the propriety of keeping them separate from the real criminals, called for this measure.

The Ordinance (No. 4 of 1864) on the subject provides facilities for employers tracing and recovering the deserters from their service.

With a view still further to prevent the overcrowding of the prisons, the Government has been authorized by Ordinance No. 22, of 1864, to transfer any prisoners, except debtors, from one to another prison in the Colony.

This measure will enable the Government to transfer the overplus of prisoners in one gaol to another where there is room, and to clear out for a time a prison in which an epidemic has appeared. It will also facilitate the classification of prisoners, and the carrying out of reformatory measures for juvenile offenders, separated as these may now be from their grown up associates. It will also enable the Government to collect female prisoners in two or three of the gaols under qualified female warders. This Ordinance was enacted in place of Ordinance No. 27, of 1863, on the same subject; some of whose provisions had not been approved by the Secretary of State.

The Government railway undertaking required the enactment of three Ordinances.

The most important of these, namely No. 8, for regulating the traffic, is framed on the model of the Imperial Railway Clauses Consolidation Act of 1845, with the modifications necessary for the case of railways directed by Government.

Ordinance No. 15 was designed for enabling the Government to borrow on more easy terms than under the previous law (No. 19 of 1862) the remainder of the loan required for the railways, and which it allows to be raised either on debentures or on registered stock payable in 30 years instead of 25, as formerly. The creation of the sinking fund for paying off the balance is postponed until the sum previously borrowed shall have been paid off; a provision which will free the Colonial finances from unnecessary pressure. The liberality of the Home Government in sanctioning this change has been appreciated in the Colony.

A continued increase of expenditure occasioned by the railway debt had to be met by enacting (Ordinance No. 24 of 1864) for another year the additional customs duties imposed in 1863.

The paper currency in the Colony, which, since 1849, had been limited to notes issued by Government Commissioners, had remained under temporary laws, owing to difficulties regarding the reserve of specie and the investment of the remainder. These matters having at length been settled, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and the Lords of the Treasury, an Ordinance (No. 10) was passed definitively, constituting

the Board of Currency Commissioners, and defining their duties and powers. It is chiefly a repetition of the temporary laws on the subject. Among other provisions it allows a sum equal to one-half of the notes in circulation at any time to be invested in securities of the Imperial Government, or (under certain limits) in the Mauritius Government debentures; the latter provision enabling the Currency Commissioners to lend their funds to the Local Government at any time.

Two Ordinances were passed on the subject of Quarantine; one (No. 1) for the removal of obstacles to the departure from the Colony of persons willing to embark in ships under quarantine; the other (No. 2) for extending, with certain necessary modifications, the Quarantine Law of 1857 to the Seychelles Islands.

Besides these Laws of a general nature there were passed the following, viz.:

Ordinance No. 3, for the appointment of a Provisional Poor Relief Committee for the District of Savanne, framed on the model of Ordinance No. 9 of 1863.

Ordinance No. 17, for authorizing an advance to be made from the Treasury for repairing the presbytery of the Roman Catholic parish of St. Augustine, in the district of Black River, similar to Ordinances Nos. 17, of 1837, 39 of 1844, 4 of 1849.

Ordinance No. 7, for the division of the Roman Catholic parish of Port Louis.

The first and third of these subjects have since been placed on a proper footing by general laws, which will be reported on hereafter.

The only other public Ordinances are on financial subjects and are the usual terms.

In closing this subject it is satisfactory to observe that the legislative business of the Colony meets with much care and attention in the Council and its Committees; and that, while the several Bills are fully and freely discussed, there is a total absence of party spirit and factious opposition; on the contrary, a spirit of cordial assistance and co-operation with the Executive prevails throughout the Council.

(Signed) W. G. DICKSON,
Procureur and Advocate-General.

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REPORTS

SHOWING THE

PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1864.

PART II.

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES;
AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA;
AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND;
EASTERN COLONIES; AND
THE MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS, &c.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
20*th July* 1866.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1866.

14420.

SCHEDULE.

PART II.

No. in Series.	Colony.	Page.
	NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.	
1	Canada.	4
2	Nova Scotia	5
3	New Brunswick	5
4	Prince Edward Island	9
5	Newfoundland	9
6	Bermuda	16
7	British Columbia	17
8	Vancouver Island	17
	AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.	
9	Sierra Leone	24
10	Gambia	24
11	Gold Coast. (Not received.)	
12	Cape of Good Hope	25
13	Natal	26
14	Lagos	26
15	St. Helena	27
	AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.	
16	New South Wales	30
17	Queensland	53
18	Victoria	76
19	Tasmania. (Not received.)	
20	South Australia	77
21	Western Australia	95
22	New Zealand.	98
	EASTERN COLONIES.	
23	Ceylon	112
24	Hong Kong	159
25	Labuan	163
	MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS.	
26	Gibraltar	166
27	Malta	166
28	Heligoland. (Not received.)	
29	Falkland Islands	168

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

CANADA.

No. 1.

CANADA.

No. 1.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Viscount Monck, to the Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, M.P.

(No. 77.)

Sir, Ottawa, July 7, 1866.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Canadian Blue Book for 1864, and I also enclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Taché, the officer whose department is charged with the preparation of the book explaining the causes of the delay which has taken place in completing it.

I have, &c.

The Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, M.P. (Signed) MONCK.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Mr. Taché to Mr. Godley.

Bureau of Agriculure and Statistics, Patent Office,

Sir, Ottawa, July 6, 1866.

I ought to have given you, for the information of his Excellency, yesterday, when forwarding the Blue Book for 1864, some explanations about the delay in its preparation. As his Excellency is well aware the Blue Book had been for many years a mere nominal work, so much so, that when I entered this office the Blue Book for 1863 was sent to me, by order of his Excellency, for correction, as being unfit for presentation to the imperial authorities.

In consequence of such long neglect the preparation of the Blue Book of 1864 has been a labour of some magnitude, there being no foundation to build upon. Thousands of circulars have been written, and tedious researches have had to be made to restore the link of official appointments, and to procure the several other informations sought for; another difficulty was met in the slovenliness of a great number of county public officers and the insufficiency of their answers when obtained, they having been led to take the Blue Book returns as a formality without object or meaning, in some cases as many as seven letters have been sent to the same person, some answers to which have been received as late as a month ago.

The Blue Book of 1864 is not so perfect nor so complete as I intended to make it by progress of time, and of our statistical labours, but I hope it will be found vastly different, for the better, to what it has been for a long period of years.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. C. Taché,

Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Nova Scotia.

No. 2.

No. 2.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir W. F. Williams, Bart., K.C.B, to the Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, M.P.

(No. 7.) Government House, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Sir, November 2, 1865.

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith two copies of the Blue Book of this Province for the year 1864.

As these returns relate to a period previous to my assumption of the administration of this Government, I do not feel myself at liberty to accompany them with any lengthened observations or report.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., (Signed) W. F. WILLIAMS.
&c. &c. &c.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

New Brunswick.

No. 3.

No. 3.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor the Honourable Arthur Gordon to the Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, M.P.

(No. 94.)

Sir, Fredericton, N.B., December 31, 1865.

I have the honour to transmit to you the Blue Books for 1864, together with my report upon them.

I have not yet been supplied by the Crown Land Office with all the information required, but I am unwilling longer to delay the transmission of the report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. GORDON.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Report to accompany the Blue Book for 1864.

I commenced my report for the year 1863 by stating that it had been one of general prosperity and progress in this Province, that the revenue had exceeded that of any previous year, and that a marked increase of activity had been displayed in almost every branch of provincial industry. These observations, I am happy to say, apply with even greater justice to the year 1864.

2. On the 16th February I opened the third Session of the existing Provincial Parliament, which was terminated by prorogation on the 13th of April. 59 Acts were passed during the session. Of these the greater part were of a purely local character, and do not merit any special mention in this report. The "Act in aid of the Construction of Railways," however, is a measure of some general importance, and was not adopted without much discussion and difference of opinion. By this Act a provincial subsidy of $10,000 per mile was, with certain reservations and under certain guarantees, offered to any company entering into a contract with the Government to construct a line of railway from the frontier of the United States to St. John, one from the frontier of Nova Scotia to the existing European and North American Railway, or one of various smaller branch lines of internal communication. This Act was introduced in consequence of the unfortunate reluctance of the then existing Canadian Government to carry out the arrangement for the construction of an intercolonial railway, which had been effected at Quebec in 1862, and a provision was accordingly made for a further grant of aid to any company undertaking to build that line in a manner and by a route satisfactory to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The lines to the frontier of the United States and of Nova Scotia,

NEW BRUNSWICK.

and a branch line from St. Stephen's to the existing St. Andrew's Railway, are already in process of construction under this Act, and I expect that another of the branch lines, that from Woodstock to the St. Andrew's railroad, will also shortly be commenced under its provisions.

3. All events of public interest were duly reported by me on their occurrence, and it is unnecessary for me now to revert to them. The negotiations for a federal union of the British North American Provinces generally, and for a legislative union of the three maritime Provinces, although commenced in this year, will more properly come under review when it is my duty to forward the Blue Books for 1865.

Revenue and Expenditure.

4. The revenue for 1864 considerably exceeded that of 1863, which again had been greatly in excess of that for 1862.

5. The revenue derived from almost precisely the same sources during the last four years has been, in pounds sterling:—

	£	s.	d.
For 1861 - -	145,593	17	1
1862 - -	148,940	5	6
1863 - -	175,258	10	4
1864 - -	213,675	11	9

6. The expenditure during the same period has been:—

	£	s.	d.
For 1861 - -	176,051	3	1
1862 - -	167,180	4	2
1863 - -	184,845	1	5
1864 - -	175,979	14	7

Trade and Navigation.

7. The total value of imports into New Brunswick in the year 1864 was 1,863,615*l.*, an excess of 268,102*l.* over the value of the imports in 1863.

8. The total value of the exports from New Brunswick during the same period was 1,052,891*l.*, showing a slight increase of 23,562*l.* over the value of the exports of the previous year.

9. I have, however, frequently taken occasion to remark that the value of the exports from New Brunswick is not as fully shown by returns as is that of the imports. Ships built in this Province form probably its most valuable article of export, but they do not appear in this account at all, and if their value, some 800,000*l.* sterling at least, were added, the excess of imports would nearly disappear. There are other causes which diminish the apparent amount of the exports, such as the fact that goods really exported from this Province are often shipped from the American bank of the St. Croix and the Canadian bank of the Restigouche, whilst, on the other hand, large supplies for the State of Maine, passing through the Province, are entered as imports, but do not appear again as exports owing to their not being liable to duty as such.

10. One hundred and sixty-three new vessels, measuring 92,605 tons register, were registered at the different ports of New Brunswick during 1864, and the total number of existing vessels on the registry books of New Brunswick on the 31st December last was 958, measuring 233,225 tons.

11. The total tonnage of all nations cleared outwards from this Province in 1864 was 742,690 tons, and the total tonnage entered inwards amounted to 669,796 tons.

Public Works.

12. The expenditure on public works during the year 1864 amounted to $137,325, of which sum $60,308$\frac{24}{100}$ were devoted to the maintenance of the great roads and bridges.

13. Two new bridges of considerable importance were commenced this year, the one over the river Aroostook, nearly 600 feet in length and 27 in height, the cost of which is estimated at $6,000; the other over the Presquile river, on the road to Canada, about 550 feet in length, and likely to cost about $3,000. Other new bridges under special supervision were erected at a cost of, in the aggregate, $11,926$\frac{94}{100}$.

European and North American Railway.

14. The receipts of this railway, which is the property of the Government, amounted during the financial year 1864 to $145,057$\frac{86}{100}$. Of this sum $71,999$\frac{74}{100}$ were derived from freight traffic, and $64,292$\frac{52}{100}$ from passengers' tickets.

15. The expenses during the same period amounted to $103,630\frac{12}{100}$, thus leaving a net profit of $41,427\frac{74}{100}$.

16. The number of passengers during the year amounted to 139,554.

17. This railway is a work of which the Province has good reason to be proud, for in the solidity of its works, and the care shown in its construction, it is probably inferior to none on the American continent, and certainly superior to any other in the British Provinces.

Post Office.

18. The receipts of this department amounted to $51,185, being an excess of $5,042 over those of 1863.

19. The expenditure was $71,974. The deficiency in this branch of revenue, which I have annually to lament, does not appear to be increasing, it having diminished from $25,025 in 1860 to $24,529, $23,136, $21,240, and $20,789, in 1861, 1862, 1863, and 1864 respectively.

20. This deficiency is in a great measure due to the untaxed transmission of newspapers through the post. No fewer than 2,059,627 newspapers were posted during the year, whilst the number letters posted in the same period amounted only to 794,128. If but one cent's postage had been required on this number, a revenue of $20,000, or almost sufficient to cover the deficiency, would have been realized, nor do I believe that the circulation of any but the most flimsy prints would be diminished by such a measure. It is remarkable that, out of so comparatively small a number of letters as 794,128, no fewer than 12,123 should have been dead letters.

21. The money order system, the introduction of which I announced in my last annual report, has worked satisfactorily. The number of orders issued during the year was 2,925, for the amount of $136,050.

22. A system of money orders on Great Britain, Canada, and the other North American Colonies has since been adopted, and will, I make no doubt, prove of much utility.

Education.

23. The sum expended by Government for educational purposes in 1864 amounted to $115,167.

24. Of this sum $80,144 were absorbed by the parish schools, whilst the direct contributions of the people in the various localities amounted to $105,684, being an increase of more than $5,500 over the contributions of the previous year. The number of these schools in operation during 1864 was 816, attended by about 30,000 scholars. 54 new school houses were built during the year, making a total of 338 erected during the last five years. Most of these buildings are suitable and commodious structures, and some have pretensions to be really handsome buildings.

25. $5,720 were devoted to the maintenance of 22 superior schools, attended by an average of 1,138 pupils. In these schools, Greek, Latin, and French are added to the branches of education taught in the ordinary parish schools.

26. I continue to be well satisfied with the management of the University of New Brunswick. All the professors discharge their duties in a highly efficient manner, and the Principal, Dr. Jack, is unremitting in his efforts for the improvement of the institution. The attendance at the university, though not large, is much greater than a few years ago. During the year 1864 there were 38 students in the university, and 99 pupils in the collegiate school.

27. In addition to the schools in connexion with Board of Education, there are various educational establishments of more or less pretension under the direction of various religious bodies in the Province which receive some assistance from the Legislature, in the aggregate amounting to a sum of about $13,000.

Militia and Volunteers.

28. The Militia of this Province is divided into three classes.

Class A. comprises the Volunteer portion of this force, all of whom are armed and uniformed. Many of the companies drill twice, and all of them once a week. The cavalry, of which there are three troops, are attached to the Militia battalions in whose districts they are. They are armed with the sabre and long Enfield rifle, and are drilled as infantry when dismounted. The regiment of artillery consists of seven batteries; the men are very smart and well drilled, but their organization and armament are defective. One battery has no guns at all, and the others only two each, ten 3-pounders and

NEW BRUNSWICK.

two 6-pounders. These would be nearly useless in any country, but especially useless in this, which is quite unfitted for cavalry or field batteries. The artillery are, however, armed with the long Enfield rifle, to which weapon they would resort on actual service. The St. John Volunteer Battalion consists of six companies, fairly drilled, and only wanting a series of battalion drills to make them thoroughly efficient. The Engineer Company is well drilled, but have had no practice in field works. Many of the detached rural companies are very well drilled, but they have no opportunity of learning battalion movements. Their attendance is naturally not so regular as that of companies in towns, as the population is widely scattered through a large extent of country.

Class B. consists of all able-bodied men (with certain exemptions) between the ages of 18 and 45 who do not belong to Class A. They are divided into 34 battalions, and in 1864 were only called out for one day in the year. During the present year a great step in advance has been made, and law now provides for the systematic training of a force of about 1,000 men annually for a period of four weeks. In many regiments the officers are uniformed, and tolerably acquainted with their drill, and most colonels now insist on aspirants for commissions going through a regular course of drill before being gazetted.

Class C. includes all male inhabitants between 45 and 60. These are not called out, but merely enrolled.

29. There is usually a camp every autumn during the firing for the Prince of Wales Cup. In October 1864 this was held at Mount Fordham, near Fredericton, and was under the command of the Adjutant-General. Military discipline was maintained, and the conduct of the men was very good during the whole time they were under canvas.

30. Considerable progress has been made in the re-organization of the Militia Force, and the musters of the different regiments which took place generally in 1864 were for the most part far more satisfactory than I had ventured to anticipate.

Crown Lands.

31. 1,625 applications for land were received at the Crown Land Office in the year 1864.

32. Of these, 549 were petitions for leave to purchase land at a sale by auction. The remaining 1,076 were applications to purchase land by the performance of labour on the roads, under the provisions of an Act of the Provincial Assembly. No applicant under the Labour Act is allowed to purchase a lot exceeding 100 acres in extent.

33. The number of licences to cut timber issued during 1864 was 1,109, but the amount realized from this source did not exceed $18,567, in my opinion far too small a sum.

34. I think the brief tabular statement which I append will afford an interesting and highly satisfactory view of the steady if gradual progress of this fine Colony.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS of the PROVINCE of NEW BRUNSWICK in 1861 to 1864.

Specification.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross Revenue	*147,165 16 8	*144,214 10 0	*176,019 10 0	*221,003 6 8
Value of Imports	1,238,133 0 0	1,291,604 0 0	1,595,513 0 0	1,863,615 0 0
Value of Exports	947,091 0 0	803,445 0 0	1,029,329 0 0	1,052,891 0 0
Receipts of European and North American Railway	27,224 15 0	22,425 0 0	26,931 15 0	30,220 10 0
Expenditure on do.	19,634 10 0	18,257 10 0	18,444 15 0	21,589 15 0
Post Office Revenue	9,642 10 0	9,637 15 0	9,610 5 0	10,426 7 0
„ Expenditure	14,378 6 8	14,648 15 0	14,649 3 4	15,039 15 0
Number and Tonnage of New Vessels built	No. 80	90	137	163
	Tons 40,523	48,719	85,250	92,605
Number of Bridges built	No return.	35	45	44
No. of New School-houses built	50	68	55	54
No. of Pupils in Parish Schools	27,589	28,229	28,067	30,133
No. of Pupils in Grammar Schools	393	407	445	499

ARTHUR GORDON.

* Sic in Original, but these figures do not agree with those on page 6.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor HODGSON to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 79.)

SIR, Government House, October 4, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1864.

In consequence of my assumption of the Government so recently as the month of July of the current year, I do not feel warranted in offering any observations on its contents.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) R. HODGSON, Administrator.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

NEW FOUNDLAND.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MUSGRAVE to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 65.)

Government House, Newfoundland,

SIR, July 19, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward in duplicate the Blue Book of this Colony for 1864. I only assumed the administration of the Government late in the year, when its business, both political and general, may be said to have been determined, and I took part in little of the affairs of the period to which the returns relate. But as I find that no full report has been given with the Blue Books since the year 1856, I submit some observations which have been suggested by these tables.

2. The returns themselves are in many instances far from being so full and complete as I should desire, or as I hope it may be possible to make them in future. The value of the statistics which they might embody has scarcely been sufficiently appreciated, but the present Colonial Secretary is anxious to bestow the attention upon the subject which it deserves.

Revenue and Expenditure, and Imports and Exports.

3. The revenue of this Colony is derived from import duties more exclusively than perhaps in any other part of the British Possessions, while at the same time there are few places where food and the chief necessaries of life are so little burdened. Nearly half of the total amount is derived from the four articles of sugar or molasses, spirits, tea, and manufactured tobacco, which are not products of the United Kingdom; and to all articles admitted duty free from the United States under the reciprocity treaty the same entire exemption from taxation is accorded when imported from Great Britain and Ireland or the contiguous British Provinces.

4. The comparative statement of revenue for the two last years shows an apparent total of 125,158*l.* as against 113,034*l.*, giving an increase of 12,124*l.*; but a sum of 12,933*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* is composed of loans raised in 1864 for public purposes and a special customs duty in aid of works for the supply of water. The increase on import duties only amounted to 4,415*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, which is not more than may be accounted for by the ordinary fluctuations of trade, and this advantage is reduced in its effect on the total by the diminution of the amount received for excise on distilled spirits and on account of the profits from the savings bank; as regards which latter head of receipt the proceeds of two years were credited in 1863, besides an amount of 1,808*l.* which in that year was drawn from that institution for sewerage works as a loan, since repaid. Allowing for these

NEWFOUNDLAND.

special items, the total true revenue was about the same in 1864 as in the previous year, and was somewhat in excess of that collected in 1861 and 1862.

5. There having been no alteration in the rates of duty, there appears, therefore, to have been no retrogression in the import trade of the Colony as regards dutiable articles, while of 1,067,062*l.*, the total value of goods imported, the amount of 455,308*l.* represents imports from the United Kingdom, and 306,851*l.* is the value of imports from the United States, and the total value of all imports is quite equal in amount to that of former years.

6. The statement of expenditure presents some features comparing favourably with that of the previous year. The amount disbursed for the relief of the poor was only 15,123*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, being 11,593*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* less than in 1863, when it reached the sum of 26,717*l.*; and in 1862 no less than 32,544*l.* was expended on this head. The only other important diminution appears under the head of executive responsibility, the expenditure under which account in 1863 exceeded that of last year by the amount of 3,946*l.* The difference is explained by the circumstance that in 1863 there was no Contingency Bill passed; but that, on the application of members of the Council and Assembly, my predecessor consented to pay the servants and incidental expenses of both Houses on his own responsibility.

7. Increase of expenditure appears on several accounts, but for worthy objects. Roads and bridges received 7,221*l.* more than in the previous year. Lighthouses and steam communication received respectively 1,977*l.* and 2,005*l.* beyond what had been expended in 1863. The portion of the public debt reduced by repayment of loans was greater by the sum 2,834*l.*; and the increase of disbursements for the purposes of water supply and sewerage was 5,449*l.* above those of that year. There are other minor differences, but none that call for especial notice.

8. The true exports of the Colony, not including articles from other places re-shipped, consist entirely, as is well known, of fish and their products, and seal oil and skins; of these, dried codfish is the article of most importance, and the great proportion of it is exported to Spain, Portugal, and Brazil. The fisheries of 1864 were not successful as to quantity. The result of the seal fishery was considered a failure, and the export of oil did not reach half the quantity of the preceding year. Of dried codfish the quantity was slightly greater than in 1863, but 150,730 cwts. less than in the previous year. In consequence, however, of a rise in prices, the returns show a total value of this article exceeding the amount on either of the two previous years, being respectively as follows:—

Quantities and value of dried codfish exported.

	Cwts.	Value.
1862 - - - -	1,000,069	£787,821
1863 - - - -	811,777	761,265
1864 - - - -	849,339	795,460

Public Debt.

9. The debt of the Colony is not large compared with the liabilities of the neighbouring Provinces. Public credit stands high, and no difficulty has ever been experienced in raising such loans as have from time to time been required for public purposes; debentures bearing 5 per cent. interest, indeed, being readily purchased at a premium. The total liability at the end of 1864 was 177,261*l.*, of which 5,000*l.* was added during the year 1864 for the special purpose of providing for the sewerage of the town of St. John's. The interest on the whole has been punctually paid, and some small portion of old loans liquidated.

Local Revenues.

10. It is a feature entirely peculiar to this Colony that there is no local revenue or fund of any kind, municipal or parochial. The slightest expenditure, for whatever purpose, is charged upon the general revenue; and in this circumstance is found a source of much objection to many local improvements, which persons who imagine that they will not participate in them demur to having provided for from funds to which they contribute; while on the other hand, the immunity which has hitherto been enjoyed from any defined impost, for even the most necessary purposes, has engendered a morbid apprehension of any direct taxation, even in a town numbering more than 25,000 inhabitants. The results are not such as the community may congratulate itself upon.

Military Expenditure—Volunteers.

11. The only military expenditure regularly defrayed by the Colony is a small annual grant of 250*l.* for the incidental disbursements of five companies of rifle volunteers in the towns of St. John's and Harbor Grace, amounting to about 300 men. There are prospects, however, of considerable addition to this number since the Legislature during the last session granted a special amount of 1,000*l.* for clothing; and there is at this time a battery of volunteer artillery in the course of formation. I am disposed to hope that in future regular provision may be made for furnishing clothing at the public expense. As in many other Colonies, there are a considerable number of persons who will give their time and services willingly as volunteers, and who are valuable men, but who are not disposed or who are not able to incur pecuniary expense; and I confess that it seems to me only just that the public should supply this in respect of military organization, which would in a great measure stand in the place of militia corps.

Public Works.

12. No new public works were undertaken during the year, but there was the usual care bestowed on the roads and buildings; and the lighthouse on Burnet Island, commenced in the previous year, was completed. The light has since been put into operation in June last.

Legislation.

13. The legislation of the year presents no salient characteristics. Sixteen Acts were passed; all useful measures, but chiefly consisting of the usual annual fiscal provisions and amendments in the administration of the laws. I do not regard any of them as requiring special notice or explanation.

Political Franchise.

14. The House of Assembly is composed of 30 members, representing 15 electoral districts, of which five return three members, five return two, and the remaining five one member each. The qualification for a seat is very moderate, being only, as required by the Imperial Statute 5 & 6 Vict. c. 120., "a net annual income arising from any source "whatever of 600*l.*, or the possession of property clear of all incumbrance exceeding "500*l.* in amount or value." The statute also enacts that any person wishing to be put in nomination as a candidate must have occupied a dwelling as owner or tenant thereof for a period of two years next immediately preceding the day of such election. The only qualification necessary for the exercise of the elective franchise is the occupation of "a "dwelling house" (of which no value or character is prescribed) as owner or tenant thereof for two years immediately preceding the day of election. The total number of registered electors at the time of the last general election was 17,728. According to the last census the number of male inhabitants above the age of 20 was 29,192. The proportion of persons enjoying the franchise compared with the whole male population, after deducting the probable number above 20 and under 21, is therefore shown to be so large as nearly to amount to universal manhood suffrage. Certainly the head of every family, of whatever social grade, and every one in any sense a householder, possesses the right of election; and their field of selection is not very limited, as any person is qualified to be a representative of the people who possesses a nominal income of 100*l.* per annum above the qualification which gives a title to vote as an elector. The privilege of self-government is subject to few restrictions in the Colony of Newfoundland.

Population.

15. The returns embraced in the population table are made on the authority of the last census, taken in 1857. The figures in the columns of births and deaths are to a great extent only conjectural, no authentic source of information existing, and the records even of baptisms and burials being but imperfectly accessible to the official departments. There seems, however, to be but little doubt that the number of inhabitants is steadily increasing, and I trust that the Registration Act, passed during the last session of the Legislature, will in time be the means of affording reliable information on this subject. Some allowance must be made for the natural difficulties which prevent the collection of statistics in settlements where the population is dispersed along the margin of a great extent of sea coast; and, except in the district of St. John's, very few buildings of any kind are to be found more than two or three miles from the sea.

NEW FOUNDLAND.

Miscellaneous Numerical Returns.

16. I regret that materials have not hitherto been collected to furnish the information intended to be embraced in these columns. There are many friendly or benefit societies in St. John's and the larger towns, of which the condition I am led to believe is healthy, and of which the action is very beneficial among the middle classes and tradespeople of the community; but I have not been able to obtain any particulars in respect of these institutions.

17. The savings bank accounts show continued usefulness in this establishment, and some addition to the amount of deposits. On the 31st December 1864 no less a sum than 159,993*l.* appeared as due to persons making use of the institution. Including the Harbor Grace branch, there are 1,573 accounts, giving an average of nearly 102*l.* to each depositor. More than half the number, however, are accounts over 100*l.*; and 110 depositors have each more than 300*l.* standing at their credit. As the merchants and traders engaged in large undertakings do not make use of the savings bank, it is a somewhat curious fact that the petty dealers and tradespeople of a minor class among a population little over 122,000 should be able to lay by in this manner alone so large an amount as nearly 160,000*l.*; while the mass of the people are frequently in the winter season in circumstances so indigent as to cause drafts upon the public resources so great as to seriously obstruct and retard improvements in many directions where they are much needed, and cannot be effected for lack of necessary funds. The circumstance is one of the anomalies in the affairs of this Colony which strike a stranger as singular, and certainly is not altogether consistent with the assumption that the community is naturally poor and unable to bear taxation, even for just purposes.

Education.

18. The claims of education have not been dealt with in a niggardly spirit by the Legislature, though the peculiar circumstances of the Colony in many respects have operated to prevent the full benefit being derived, which might perhaps under other circumstances be obtained from the funds set apart for this purpose. The sum of 13,814*l.* appears as so appropriated during the year 1864, being more than 50 per cent. in excess of the amount given in 1855 (8,871*l.*), and double the contribution of 1846 (6,628*l.*) The number of scholars has been greatly augmented since Governor Darling noticed this subject in his report on the Blue Book of 1855. If the returns may be trusted, they show 10,437 children receiving instruction in the elementary schools throughout the Island, which are under the charge of Boards respectively formed of Roman Catholics and Protestants, as against 8,196 under tuition in the like schools in 1855. Schools of a better class are not without support in the large towns, and especially in St. John's and Harbor Grace, and it would appear upon the whole that there has been decided advance in educational movement of late years, though returns of the number attending can only be approximate, and the best time for attendance, the summer, is often lost by the parents requiring the services of the children either in catching or curing fish. To say that the organization, so far as the Government is concerned, is not what it might be, is only to admit the difficulty which exists in applying due control in a community without any church establishment recognized by law and divided by religious antagonisms, which have produced the greatest jealousy of any interference by any denomination or section with the educational schemes of the others, however anxious all may be to obtain pecuniary support from the common fund.

19. The only arrangements which have been found practicably feasible have not materially varied since Governor Darling wrote in 1856. The sum annually appropriated is divided in tolerably equal shares between the Protestant and Roman Catholic population, the administration of the sums appropriated to the several districts being confided to Boards appointed by the Governor in Council. The Roman Catholic Boards are composed entirely of members of that faith, and in the case of the Protestant schools the Board unites all denominations of Protestants in that district in proportions according to their relative numbers. Better supervision, and a greater check upon the conduct of these Boards than could formerly be enforced, have been established in the appointment of inspectors, whose reports for the last year I annex to this Despatch. One great difficulty is the want of qualified teachers. An attempt is in contemplation to endeavour to supply them, at least so far as the Protestant schools are concerned, by the institution of a normal training school, such as some which have rendered good service in other places.

Agriculture.

20. The tables under this head are of little value. There do not exist any means of filling them up with accuracy, and their contents are compiled from statistics collected with the last census in 1857, conjecturally adapted to what are believed to be facts at the present date. Newfoundland is certainly not an agricultural country, and I fear that the time is distant when she will be able to supply even her own wants from the produce of the soil. But although I must admit that my means of forming a correct judgment are yet but limited, I am strongly disposed to regard the difficulties in the way of her doing so as very much overrated. If more skill and sufficient capital were applied to the cultivation of the land to greater extent, what *is* already done with small means, and in a slight degree, shows what might be accomplished. Returns per acre are quite equal to those of many parts of the United States, where it is not doubted that agriculture is profitable; and, although the climate is so uncertain and variable as to render it difficult raise wheat, in most years there is little difficulty in growing barley, oats, turnips, and potatoes of excellent quality. As an experiment flax has been cultivated with success, and there is a movement to introduce it more generally. I may, I think, state with some confidence that more serious attention is now given than formerly to develope the products of the land, at least as auxiliary to the fisheries, which will always constitute the staple industry of the people. But it is notable that those of the population who are engaged in husbandry make little if any demand upon the Government for poor relief; the fishing population are the paupers in bad years; their gains are greater and more readily squandered in fortunate seasons; their reverses are more severely felt when unsuccessful. The progress of agriculture is slow, but I think it is sure; during the last two years it has been decided, if applications for grants of land may be taken as an indication. In 1863 and 1864, 2,866 acres have been granted, the number in 1862 being only 551. The present season has been a very favourable one for agricultural produce, and there is promise of finer crops of all kinds than have been reaped for several years.

Mines, &c.

21. The mineral wealth of the Colony is very generally believed to be considerable, and upon what are geologically held to be good reasons; but little has yet been done towards demonstrating these resources. A lead mine at La Manche, in Placentia Bay, on the south coast, is being worked by the New York, London, and Newfoundland Telegraph Company, to whom land on the line of their telegraph was granted; but what the result of their operations may be at the present time I have no means just now of ascertaining. Copper has been discovered in what appears to be very rich lodes at Tilt Cove, in the Bay of Notre Dame, on the north-east coast, very near to the sea, and from the information I have received of the quality of several tons of the ore shipped to England for assay, there seems reason to hope for very good results to the mining works which are now being commenced. It is said that the quality of ore is inferior only to that of the Burra Burra mines. Large lodes lie in the face of rock looking towards the sea close to the shore, and the locality therefore affords great facilities for carriage, which is a matter of great importance.

22. Near the same place have been discovered veins of marble of quality, it is said, little, if at all, inferior to the finest from Carrara. Small pieces shown to me are of great beauty. The question is whether blocks can be obtained sufficiently large and perfect to render them valuable for purposes of sculpture. The discoverer of both the copper and the marble, Mr. Charles Fox Bennett, a gentleman of much energy and great enterprise, who is known to have sacrificed large sums in the prosecution of his searches after and attempts to develope the mineral wealth of the Colony, is very sanguine of success on this occasion; and I believe he has with him the sympathy and good wishes of the right minded of the community in the undertaking upon which he now enters. It would, indeed, be no small advantage to the commonwealth to provide the means of employment which would be afforded by remunerative mines to a part of the surplus population who, from whatever cause, cannot now depend solely upon the fisheries for support.

Gaols and Prisoners.

23. Considering the great distress which does so often prevail among the working class during a large portion of the year, no matter how produced or how far preventible, it is a fact very greatly to the credit of the population that the number of offenders against the law is not large, nor their offences for the most part heinous. Assaults and

NEWFOUNDLAND.

misdemeanors are almost the only causes of commitment. Of course, in a population of more than 120,000, serious crime does sometimes occur, but very rarely. Possibly it is partly from this reason that less attention has been given to the organization and discipline of the prisons at St. John's and Harbor Grace than might have been bestowed with some advantage to the character of those establishments. The places of confinement in other districts are only used for very temporary detention until culprits can be forwarded to one or other of these prisons. The subject is under consideration, and I hope it will not be long before improvement is effected.

Charitable Institutions.

24. The Public Hospital, the Poor House, and the Lunatic Asylum at St. John's are the only establishments of the kind for all districts of the Island. The Lunatic Asylum is under very effective superintendence, and although from want of funds all requirements are not so fully provided for as I should like to see them, yet upon the whole the establishment is a creditable one, and I wish that all other public institutions were equally good.

25. The Hospital is not satisfactory. The accommodation afforded by the building is inadequate, and the character of the building itself does not enable proper arrangements. What can be done to temporarily correct immediate evils is being carried into effect, but it is proposed to erect a new and more suitable hospital, and I hope that arrangements may be accomplished for this purpose during the next session of the Legislature.

26. The Poor House, used for the accommodation of aged and infirm paupers, most of whom are permanent inmates, is susceptible of improvement, but as other claims upon the public funds are more pressing, any important action with regard to this institution must be deferred. I believe, however, that the comfort of the inmates is fairly attended to, and the administration is upon the whole satisfactory.

27. Besides these institutions, two orphanages are partly supported by funds granted by the Legislature, 6*l.* sterling being given for each orphan under a certain age; and there are also several charitable societies supported by voluntary contributions. In this respect the good deeds of the community will bear favourable comparison with the charities of other Colonies.

Concluding Observations.

28. There are some features in the condition of this Colony, and in the character of its institutions, which deserve the consideration of the advocates of extreme opinions upon the subjects of representation and taxation, and especially of those who believe that in unrestricted political franchise, immunity from fiscal burdens, and absolute freedom in matters of religion and church government are to be found panaceas for any disadvantages which prevail in the condition of the working classes in older communities. If universal suffrage is a boon, the mass of the population possess that privilege qualified only in the most nominal manner, in a manner, indeed, which has only the effect of excluding a considerable number of persons from the franchise, such as clerks in mercantile establishments and skilled artizans, who not being nominally householders cannot claim it on the terms of the law, but who are nevertheless very much better fitted to be intrusted with its exercise than the larger number of those whose title is not questioned. As I have had occasion already to point out, there is no direct taxation of any kind. Almost all revenue is derived from import duties. By the operation of the reciprocity treaty during the last 10 years food and most of the necessaries of life have been absolutely exempted from taxation; and of the aggregate revenue in the last year, 46 per cent. was raised on the four articles of sugar or molasses, tea, spirits, and manufactured tobacco, none of which can be regarded as indispensable, however much they are in demand, and greatly as they may add to physical comfort in moderate quantities. In fact the proportion contributed to public necessities by the mass of the population is very small. I believe there are very few places in the possessions of the Crown where the operative class furnish less; and when it is considered how many during the year are pensioners on public bounty, it is obvious that the state of affairs described in other places as being taxation without representation is often reversed in Newfoundland, and appears as representation without taxation. Nor has the last modification of the system of Colonial Government, established 10 years ago in the inauguration of "Responsible" Administration, seemed to afford the means of coping with evils which were admitted to be of magnitude before that period. The people at large are in fact unfettered in the choice of their representatives, and to those repre-

sentatives the Advisers of the Governor are immediately and effectively responsible. Freer political institutions it is not possible to conceive. Lighter taxation is not, I believe, known, so far as it bears on the great majority of the population. And not only is there no taxation for any religious establishment from the doctrines or principles of which the taxed may dissent, but the support of any church or Christian body is a matter purely voluntary with all. That there is wealth in the community no one will deny. Progress has been effected, and is apparent in many quarters, though not to the extent which may be witnessed elsewhere under different circumstances. But withal there is, I will not say the result, but the co-existent fact that pauperism has increased to an alarming extent during the very last 10 years in which the utmost political freedom has been enjoyed; and in this last winter season fully one-fourth of the whole public income has been absorbed by poor relief, including the usual disbursements for permanent establishments and the ordinary casual poor.

29. Objections to a course of conduct adopted some time back are always open to the criticism that it is easy to be wise after an event, and it is indisputably less difficult to cavil at the provision than to provide against evils which are seldom seen beforehand in their exact character or true proportions. Yet it is impossible to avoid the regret tha when the representative principle was applied first to this Colony in 1831, it was not endeavoured to impose such restrictions as should have tended at least in the future to secure some fitness for the trust in those on whom the franchise was conferred, and to preserve it from abuse, by withholding from those who themselves are public burdens a privilege to which they surely can show no moral claim. As matters stand it is not difficult to perceive how abuses in the system of poor relief have grown out of the political freedom of the community and the absence of all direct imposts. Great boons have been the parents of burdens no less great. There being no local rates, and neither municipal nor parochial government, all calls for pecuniary aid must be met from the public chest. The candidate for legislative honours, who hopes to make them useful in some manner more substantial than oratorical distinction, finds his account in procuring attention to the demands, not always reasonable, on the part of the electors upon whose suffrages his return depends, for such support as they have often been designedly led to believe that they are entitled to receive from the public funds. Votes are valuable when parties are evenly balanced, and there is a ceaseless struggle to grasp the over appreciated gains of office, and no Government since the acknowledgment of responsibility to the majority of the representatives of the people has been able to withstand the operation of these circumstances. The circumstances themselves are the product of several causes, arising partly from the characteristics specially belonging to this community, and of which it is impossible to divest it; but in part also from the system long prevailing between the merchants who supply the wants of the fishermen and the fishermen whose labour must produce all wealth, such at least as has heretofore been developed in the Colony, and in no small degree flowing from sources which might have been guarded against by legislation, and which even now may be rendered less fruitful of mischief. A great and tangible evil is the simple fact that Members of the Assembly may purchase popularity with their constituencies by the promotion of their demands for subsistence as paupers, and that no man's claim to exercise the franchise is in the least invalidated by receiving support from the public purse. The removal of all interest on the part of members or candidates in the furnishing of such relief to the electors, by absolutely denying to any who have received it within some stated period all right to vote, would probably go further than any other single measure to cure a sore in the body politic which deranges the whole constitution. And almost nominal as is the elective franchise, and entirely as the Government is confided to the majority of the people, it would be scarcely too much to demand that claimants of the privilege should show themselves able to read and write before being permitted to exercise it. The latter regulation would tend at least to ensure a standard of a certain degree of intelligence and education among those whose suffrages are sought, and who are intrusted with the charge of selecting the men by whom the laws governing the community are to be made. It might be difficult to establish it, but not impossible, as a future provision to operate in the cases of all who should become of age and be otherwise entitled to vote after a certain date. And taught as the people are to annex what is after all to them a factitious value to their electoral privileges, I can imagine the regulation acting with some effect in inducing parents to favour the attendance of their children at schools. But what I look upon as of far more importance is to enact the electoral disability of all persons otherwise entitled who shall have received eleemosynary aid from the public chest within some stated period. I have great hope that this point may be carried in the next session of the Legislature, and if carried I am confident that the beneficial effect will be much

NEWFOUNDLAND.

greater than might be anticipated by persons unacquainted with the place from so simple and so equitable a modification of the law regulating the franchise.

30. The radical cure, however, for the present system of poor relief, which is the "crux" of all administrations, would be the imposition of a local poor rate raised, governed, and distributed by the inhabitants of the several districts. There have been, and I fear will continue to be, many obstacles and strenuous opposition to the introduction of such an arrangement, just for the very reasons which render it so desirable. The Colony is not a homogeneous single community, but a congeries of small settlements, separated from each other by long distances, in many cases not traversed by roads, communication being only passable by water, and this mode not being practicable through many months of the year. The revenue by import duties being only collected at the larger settlements, and far chiefly at St. John's and Harbor Grace, the other little Colonies, for such they are, have no personal experience of taxation of any sort, and are not unnaturally averse to the idea, while, doubtless regarding everything that can be got in the way of charitable payments from the general fund as so much benefit for which they sacrifice nothing, they have no scruple in taking it themselves or in promoting the distribution of it among others; it being totally impossible for the Government, by any machinery now at their command, to control the abuses which are inherent in the whole system as at present existing.

31. The subject is fraught with difficulties in detail, but they do not lessen by lapse of time, and the next session can scarcely pass without some effect at their solution. As with many other minor affairs, however, the time and the mode of dealing with this question will be somewhat dependent upon the larger one of the confederation of the Colonies, and the political arrangements flowing from that great design. It would be out of place for me here to enter upon any discussion of the effects which may be anticipated from the union as regards Newfoundland; but I may be permitted to close these few observations with the expression of the belief that, apart from the great considerations of consolidated interests and Colonial defence, from it may be expected in more modes than one a re-adjustment of social and political questions of which the benefit would be great, and which is scarcely to be looked for except after great lapse of time unless through the agency of such a modification in the relations of the Colonies towards the mother country and towards each other. Among these questions that of poor relief must be placed on a reformed basis, and if confederation conferred no other benefit it would bestow lasting advantage in compelling such a course.

32. Meanwhile the present aspect of the affairs of the Colony is more cheering than for some years past. The seal fishery of 1865 has been fairly productive upon the whole. The cod fishery promises well; in some districts it has been unusually good. The agricultural returns will probably far exceed the average of very many years; and socially and politically the community is tranquil and at peace.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE.

BERMUDA.

No. 6.

BERMUDA.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor HAMLEY to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 29.)

SIR, Bermuda, May 10, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1864, and to make the following short observations thereon.

2. *Taxes*

have contained much the same as in the year 1863.

3. *Revenue*

shows an increase of 6,000*l.*, attributable to the same cause as the increase of the preceding year, namely, the continued and augmented trade with the blockaded ports of the Confederate States of America.

4. *Expenditure*

is apparently increased from 18,513*l.* to 27,100*l.*, but as 6,000*l.* have been placed in the English funds for the purpose of building a lighthouse and a gaol, the real increase of expenditure stands at 2,824*l.*, which was incurred principally for fever hospitals and for additions to salaries during the year.

5. *Imports*

show a considerable increase except under the head of "foreign countries," where there is a diminution, owing doubtless to the interruption of trade with the United States of America through the war.

6. *Exports,*

like imports, have much increased except to foreign countries; and the falling off in the exports to foreign countries is probably owing to the United States being at war.

7. The blockade running trade having now ceased, it will speedily be seen whether the impulse given to commerce will altogether disappear, or whether the energy and activity called forth by an accidental state of things will outlive their cause, and give birth to a steady and legitimate traffic of larger proportions and more spiritedly conducted than before the American war. The coming season is likely to be a critical one for the Colony. If it shall appear that the wealth of the mercantile population has been really increased by the late active traffic, then I think permanent good may be expected, and that the spirit of enterprise evoked by exceptional events will effect a lasting improvement; if, on the contrary, the aggregate trading capital has not materially grown, there is a danger of our falling back to perhaps a lower level than we have occupied for many years.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. G. HAMLEY,
Lieut.-Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor SEYMOUR to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 87.)

SIR, New Westminster, July 24, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of British Columbia for the year 1864.

2. I am about to visit the principal agricultural and mining districts of the Colony, and will defer until my return to head-quarters the report upon the volume I now transmit.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor KENNEDY, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 73.)

SIR, Government House, Victoria, August 24, 1865.

1. I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Colony of Vancouver Island for the year 1864, which is far from being as full as I could wish it to be.

2. *Taxes.*—The taxes by which the revenue of the Colony is chiefly raised are—

(1.) Real Estate Tax.
(2.) Port and Harbour Dues.
(3.) Land Sales.
(4.) Liquor Licences.
(5.) Trade Licences.

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

3. Of these the Real Estate Tax is an impost of one per cent. on the assessed value of all real property, which yielded 9,787*l.* in 1864, as compared with 8,854*l.* in 1863.

4. The existing mode of assessing real property is faulty and imperfect, and the tax is levied upon an assessment much below the real or market value.

5. The Port and Harbour Dues include, in addition to customary charges for the entrance and clearance of shipping, fees leviable for permits for the landing of imported goods according to a scale, the rates of which are very unequal and disproportionate to each other, and also licence fees for coasting vessels.

6. The produce of the sale of public lands and the land revenue is not applicable to the general purposes of the Government pending their acceptance by the Local Legislature.

7. Liquor licences are issued for the sale of spirituous and fermented liquors. The amount obtained from this source was 5,898*l.* in 1864, as compared with 4,914*l.* in 1863; a remarkable sum when considered with reference to the population.

8. The remaining principal source of revenue is what are termed "Trade Licences," which are levied according to scale, the rates under which are most unequal, and bear no proportion to each other.

9. *Revenue.*—The total revenue received from all sources in 1864 amounted to 71,268*l.*, as compared with 73,776*l.* in 1863; nevertheless, under almost every head of revenue, there is an increase. A new source of revenue also appears in gold mining licences, 830*l.*

10. There has been a falling off of 1,697*l.* under the head of "Land Sales," owing to the unsettlement of the Crown Lands question and the partial suspense of the proclamation regulating the sale of public lands.

11. *Expenditure.*—The total expenditure, 74,246*l.*, presents an increase, as compared with that of 1863, of 69,589*l.* A considerable increase occurs in the ordinary expenditure. Under the head of "Works and Buildings," the sum expended out of the "Road and Harbour Loan" is 18,452*l.*, as compared with 1,604*l.* in 1863.

12. *Legislation.*—The Acts passed during the year do not call for any special remarks.

13. *Political Franchise.*—The number of electors on the register for 1864 is 1,213. This number, however, represents the number of votes but not the number of voters, many persons being on the register for three, four, and some for even as many as five and six electoral districts. The actual number of persons who possess those 1,213 votes is 890, or less than three-fourths, and nearly all those are resident in Victoria, and possess votes in respect of lands which they have taken up in out-districts, and which they neither occupy nor improve.

14. The number of registered voters for the seven out-districts, which return eight members, is 367, but of those only 141 reside in the districts for which they have votes.

——	Registered Voters.	Resident.	Number of Members.
Esquimalt Town - - -	67	20	1
Esquimalt and Metchosin District -	83	38	2
Sooke District - - -	25	9	1
Saanich District - - -	50	13	1
Lake District - - -	65	19	1
Saltspring and Chemainis - -	39	24	1
Nanaimo - - - -	38	18	1
	367	141	8

15. *Legislative Council and Assembly.*—The Legislative Council is composed of five *ex officio* and three non-official members nominated by the Crown.

16. The Legislative Assembly consists of 15 members, elected by constituencies before described. The *British* population of the island, women and children included, cannot much, if at all, exceed 3,000. No one connected with the Government has a seat in the Assembly, which is in my opinion a great misfortune, placing the Assembly and the Executive at a mutual disadvantage, and obstructing or neutralizing useful legislation.

17. *Civil Establishment.*—With more concentrated authority, I think a reduction in numbers might be effected, but the scale of salaries, having regard to the small value of

money and high cost of living in the Colony, is injudiciously low, furnishing, with few exceptions, a bare subsistence to those employed.

18. *Population.*—The estimate given is the best that can be furnished, and is substantially correct; the European, Negro, and Chinese together numbering about 8,000, and the aboriginal Indians about 10,000.

19. *Imports.*—These show a net decrease as compared with 1863. There is, however, an increase of imports from the United Kingdom of 24,367*l.*, and a decrease of imports from the United States and foreign countries of upwards of 80,000*l.*

20. *Exports.*—The general record of exports is too meagre to be of much value. The amount of gold, the produce of British Columbia and Vancover Island, exported through the banks alone, is 556,945*l.*

21. *Shipping.*—No point worthy of notice presents itself in the Shipping Returns.

22. *Agriculture.*—No means exist of obtaining agriculture statistics of any value. The agricultural resources of the Colony may be said to be almost wholly undeveloped. The manner in which public lands have been alienated has tended rather to speculation than occupation and improvement. The agricultural land, though limited in extent, is amazingly fertile, and sufficient in extent for ten times the present population.

23. *Manufactures and Mines.*—Under this head the coal mine at Nanaimo is the most remarkable as affording employment for a fixed population, which is the great want of the Colony.

24. During the year the discovery of profitable gold diggings within 20 miles of Victoria has pointed out a new source of prosperity. The low cost at which the miners can subsist, compared with the miners of British Columbia, will probably render these mines both profitable and attractive, though the yield of gold be comparatively small.

25. *General Remarks.*—The great want in this, as in all other new countries, is a fixed population, and this can scarcely be expected till the excitement attendant upon the first discovery of gold has subsided, and communication with the mother country is facilitated and cheapened. The want of direct mail communication with England is a serious discouragement and a great detriment to British interests in the Pacific.

26. The following simple statement, showing the amount of trade transactions for 1864, the revenue received therefrom, and the per-centage of revenue, will prove interesting:—

	Transactions of 1864.	Revenue of 1864.	Per-centage.
	Dollars.	Dollars.	
The assessed value of the transactions of the year amounted to -	5,832,776	—	—
The tax assessed according to the Schedule under the Act amounted to - - - - - - - -	—	19,945	0·34
To these amounts should be added—			
1. Value of Wines and Spirits imported during the year, which is allowed to be deducted from Trade Returns -	295,785	—	—
2. Amount of Liquor Licences collected during the year -	—	29,638	—
3. Amount of Landing Permits charged on Merchandise -	—	6,430	—
Gross amount of Transactions - - -	6,148,651	—	—
Gross amount of Revenue - - -	—	56,013	—
Per-centage - - - - -	—	—	0·91

27. In connexion with the foregoing, a statement showing the gross amount of imports for the year 1864, the taxes bearing upon imports, and the per-centage thereof will afford a generally correct view of the extent of mercantile transactions and the taxation they are subject to.

	Imports for 1864.	Taxes bearing on Imports.	Per-centage.
	Dollars.	Dollars.	
Gross amount of Imports for the year	3,602,886	—	—
Trade Assessments - - -	—	19,945	0·55
Liquor Licences - - -	—	29,638	—
Landing Permits - - -	—	6,430	—
	3,602,886	56,013	0·55

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

28. An inquiry into the drinking statistics in all, especially new, British Colonies presents very deplorable results. The following figures will show that this Colony is not exempt from the evils which exist elsewhere :—

	Dollars.
The imported value of wines and spirits of every description during the year 1864 (Port of Victoria)	395,785*
Add profits, say 40 per cent.	118,314
	414,099
Deduct value of wines and spirits of every description imported through Vancouver Island into the Colony of British Columbia during the same period	149,184
Estimated consumption of Vancouver Island during the year 1864	264,915
(Which, assuming the male adult population to be 5,000, gives an annual expenditure per man of 52 dollars 98 cents.)	
Amount brought down as the transactions of wholesale dealers (importers)	414,099
Add for retail transactions	264,915
Annual transactions in liquor	679,014
(On this amount of transactions the annual licences for the sale of liquor, wholesale and retail (29,638 dollars), is equal to 4·36 per cent.)	

29. There are 85 retail licences for public-houses granted in the city of Victoria alone, in addition to 23 wholesale licences, the quarterly fees for which amount to 6,880 dollars.

30. Outside the city there are 41 licensed retail public-houses, making a total of 149 licences to sell drink, for which the fees payable for the year amount to 29,909 dollars. This enormous drain upon the earnings of the small population of this Colony cannot fail to produce disastrous social results.

31. It cannot be expected that this Colony will continue to progress in the rapid manner it has hitherto done, but I entertain no apprehension for its future. Its fine climate, good harbours, natural resources, and favourable geographical position for all purposes of commerce cannot fail, under judicious laws, to secure for Vancouver Island a high station among prosperous British Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor KENNEDY, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No.1.)

SIR, Government House, Victoria, September 22, 1865.

MISREPRESENTATIONS having been persistently put forth to prove that the people of this Colony labour under excessive taxation, I caused the accompanying statement to be published for general information.

The details of this statement will be found in the Annual Blue Book for 1864, already transmitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY.

Enclosure.

Extract from the "Government Gazette" of September 19, 1865.

Colonial Secretary's Office, September 16, 1865.

THE following statistics, prepared by the auditor, from the Colonial accounts for the year 1864, containing matter of interest to the public, are hereby published for general information.

By his Excellency's command,
(Signed) WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,
Colonial Secretary.

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1. STATEMENT showing in detail the Gross Receipts of the Colonial Treasury during the year 1864.

1.—*Taxes and Dues.*

	Dols. c.	Dols. c.
Real Estate Tax	47,469 99	
Port and Harbour Dues	16,425 80	
Liquor Licences	28,608 69	
Trade Licences	23,770 25	
Victoria City Half per Cent. Tax	4,485 82	
Total Taxes and Dues		120,760 55

* This is equal to more than 8 per cent. of the total imports of Vancouver Island.

2.—Receipts other than Taxes and Dues.

	Dols. c.	Dols. c.
Land sales	15,528 45	
Land revenue	565 0	
Rents	1,140 0	
Mining fees	4,030 20	
Postage	3,510 0	
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of Court	9,010 23	
Fees of office	4,645 82	
Sale of Government property	341 5	
Reimbursements in aid of expenses incurred :—		
Government of British Columbia, for maintenance of light-houses	4,384 64	
Imperial Government, on account of Royal Marines at San Juan, &c.	12,251 78	
Miscellaneous reimbursements	1,039 11	
Miscellaneous receipts	5,897 69	
Interest	4,732 80	
Deposits	1,210 9	
Road and harbour loan	24,250 0	
Loan repaid by Government of British Columbia	43,650 0	
Total Receipts other than Taxes		136,186 80

3.—Receipts, Nominal (matter of Account).

Defalcations of G. T. Gordon written off	3,435 72	
Advances to heads of Departments, accounted for	85,271 1	
Total nominal Receipts		88,706 73
4.—*Balance in Treasury on January* 1, 1864		23,525 68
Total gross Receipts		369,179 82

II.—STATEMENT of the estimated Population of Vancouver Island, as entered in the Colonial Blue Book for 1864.

Population, exclusive of aboriginal Indians	8,000
Aboriginal Indians	10,000
Total Population	18,000

Note.—It is estimated that three-fourths of the population (exclusive of aborigines) consist of adult males.

III.—STATEMENT showing the Rate of Taxation (inclusive of Municipal Taxes) levied per Head of the Population (exclusive of Aborigines) in the Year 1864.

Taxes	120,760 dols. 55 c.
Population	8,000
Rate per head	15 dols. 9 c.

IV.—STATEMENT showing the Rate of Taxation (inclusive of Municipal Taxes) levied per Head of the Population (inclusive of Aborigines) in the Year 1864.

Taxes	120,760 dols. 55 c.
Population	18,000
Rate per head	6 dols. 70 c.

V.—STATEMENT showing the Value of Imports into Vancouver Island during the Year 1864, per Head of the Population (exclusive of Aborigines).

Total imports	3,602,786 dollars.
Population	8,000
Rate per head	450 dollars.

VI.—STATEMENT showing the Value of Imports into Vancouver Island during the Year 1864, per Head of the Population (inclusive of Aborigines).

Total imports	3,602,786 dollars.
Population	18,000
Rate per head	200 dollars.

(Signed) HENRY WAKEFORD, *Auditor.*

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 9.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor Chamberlayne to the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.

(No. 53.) Government House, Sierra Leone,
Sir, May 19, 1865.

1. I have the honour to transmit herewith the annual Blue Book for this Colony for the year 1864.

2. Having only assumed the administration of the Government on the 1st instant, I am not in a position to offer any lengthy report on the state of the Colony, but as I have served here on two occasions in a military capacity, first in 1845, and again in 1863, I can bear testimony to the gradual but steady improvement of the Colony, and to the good conduct and growing intelligence of its inhabitants, who in this respect present a contrast to their own race inhabiting the adjacent countries, which is as creditable as it must be gratifying to those who have contributed to bring about such satisfactory results.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. CHAMBERLAYNE,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Gambia.

GAMBIA.

No. 10.

No. 10.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor Primet to the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.

(No. 4.) Government House, Bathurst, Gambia,
Right Honourable Sir, September 20, 1865.

Herewith I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1864.

2. Colonel Ord, in his report to the Committee of the House of Commons, having commented upon the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for last year, I merely beg to point out the apparent cause of the increase and decrease in some of the items.

3. Under the head of imports there is an increase in the revenue received upon tobacco of 668*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, and upon wine and spirits of 912*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* This increase is accounted for in his Excellency Colonel d'Arcy's report upon the Blue Book of 1863. Bonds payable in 12 months were given for the duty on tobacco imported in 1863, under Customs Ordinance of that year. Large quantities of rum were imported from Great Britain during the same year, the price in America having increased considerably, and there being every prospect of its continuing to do so; bonds were also given for the duty on this article.

4. Ground nuts show a decrease of 1,333*l.* The continuance of the Mohammedan Crusade has seriously affected the ground nut trade, particularly in the lower or that portion of the river below McCarthy's Island.

5. The Colah nut trade has also been affected by the disturbances in the river, and shows a decrease to the revenue of 175*l.*, although the nut is eagerly sought after by the Mohammedans, the traders, who are mostly Christians and natives of Sierra Leone, are afraid to trust themselves and their property amongst a set of fanatics so prone to "conversion" as the followers of Mabah.

6. The natives in the lower river are at present quiet, but rumours have reached me that the Soninkees are arming on the left bank of the river, under their leader "Sedjou," and intend crossing over to attack Mabah in Baddiboo.

7. I am also informed that there is every likelihood of a war between the Soninkees and Marabouts in the upper river next year.

8. Tonnage dues, quarantine fees, and pilotage also show a decrease of 725*l.* by the return of vessels entered inwards. It will be seen that there were 13 vessels, or 7,370 tons of shipping, less entered in 1864 than 1863.

9. The very large increase to the revenue derived from hides (say 489*l.*) during the past year has, I regret to say, been caused by a disease (pulmonary) which raged amongst the cattle all over the country, and extended into Salem and the French Colonies of Goree and Senegal, during last year. This disease, I am sorry to say, has shown itself again this year, and it is reported is carrying off the cattle in thousands; this, together with the continued disturbances amongst the natives, I am informed will prevent the (civil and military) contractors from fulfilling their contracts for beef. At the present time it is calculated that there are 120,000 hides in store here awaiting an improvement in the American and French markets. I beg to enclose a report from Dr. Sherwood, the colonial surgeon, upon the above disease.

10. The last cattle vessel belonging to the contractor to the military shipped 100 head of cattle at St. Louis, Senegal, and during a passage of eight days to this port lost 50 head by the disease alone.

11. Local improvements.—£871 was expended last year under this head, the town is now thoroughly drained, and consequently its sanitary condition is much improved.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. BERESFORD PRIMET,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 10.

SIR, Colonial Hospital, Bathurst, September 22, 1865.

IN compliance with your wishes I beg to forward you the result of my examination of cattle who have died of the disease which has destroyed so many of them in Bathurst, and on both sides of the River Gambia for hundreds of miles.

In every case that I have examined, both those who have been found dead and those who have been slaughtered, I have found extensive lung disease, pleuro-pneumonia, total absence of fat, muscles much emaciated, and decomposition takes place more rapidly than in healthy bodies.

I think the epidemic may be accounted for when we bear in mind that Marba, who has for the last two or three years kept the different tribes on the banks of the river in constant warfare, driving them with their cattle from place to place, the tribes and cattle suffering great hardships for want of provision, hence causing the disease which has carried off so many; and I regret to say the natives have not escaped, many of the poor wanderers have applied too late at the Colonial Hospital for me to do more than give them an asylum to die in.

With respect to sanitary condition of Bathurst, I am happy to say it has never been in a more satisfactory state, and I attribute it entirely to the care bestowed by his Excellency Colonel d'Arcy upon the drainage, and his making the road to the Cape, which enables the European inhabitants in the cool of the evening to drive out instead of the fatigue of riding.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Hon. C. B. Primet,
Acting Governor.

(Signed) W. H. SHERWOOD, M.D.,
Colonial Surgeon.

GOLD COAST.

No. 11.

[Not received.]

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir P. E. WODEHOUSE, K.C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 111.) Government House, Cape Town,
November 6, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour of transmitting for your information the Blue Book for the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope for the year 1864.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

NATAL.

No. 13.

NATAL.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor THOMAS, C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 12.)

SIR, Government House, Natal, August 18, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1864.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. W. THOMAS, Colonel,
Administrator of the Government.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

LAGOS.

No. 14.

LAGOS.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor GLOVER to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 44.)

SIR, Government House, Lagos, May 2, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1864, accompanied by such remarks as have appeared to me necessary for the explanation of any alterations in the revenue and expenditure of the year in question.

With regard to the taxes, duties, and other sources of revenue of this Settlement, the remarks made by his Excellency Governor Freeman in his report of last year are still applicable to the subject. A system of direct taxation, at all events to any extent, would be injudicious in the present undeveloped state of this Settlement. I had most certainly desired to institute a system of licences, similar to that carried on at Sierra Leone and elsewhere, on the sale of wines and spirits, &c. Circumstances have prevented me from carrying out my views in this respect; but I am still of opinion that such a tax would be a just and fair one, and would be beneficial in its effects. As matters stand, however, our principal and almost entire revenue is derived from our customs duties. It is upon these alone that we must rely; and had our tariff been raised to that of other Colonies a very sufficient revenue would have accrued to the Settlement, even under the unfavourable circumstances which have influenced the trade of the past year. I trust, however, that the brighter prospects of the present year, caused by the opening of the roads to the Yornba country, will do away with any necessity for increasing our duties. A very great and unfavourable influence is exercised upon the general duties of this port by the facilities afforded to merchants (principally foreign ones) of landing their goods on the beach near Porto Novo, and after paying a comparatively trifling duty to the King of Dahomey, who claims the sea beach as his territory, conveying the said goods through Cotenoo Creek to Porto Novo, and passing them thence into the interior, thus placing the Lagos merchants at a manifest disadvantage by under-selling them. The only drawback to this mode of proceeding was the inconvenience and oppression to which they might at any time be exposed, on account of occasional arbitrary measures on the part of the King of Dahomey, and these measures were more than once exercised. Perceiving this, an attempt was made by this Government, by granting peculiarly favourable terms to importers landing goods "in transit" for Porto Novo, to turn the Cotenoo trade into its natural channel through Lagos; and it was anticipated that after the passing of Ordinance No. 8, of the 6th April 1864, granting half duties, or a drawback of 50 per cent. on goods intended for Porto Novo, the additional sense of security afforded by this mode of importation would have counterbalanced the advantages which even under these very favourable circumstances were still presented by the discharge of goods at Cotenoo. Unfortunately the system has not worked well, and instead of resulting in a gain, has been the cause of considerable loss to this Government. I may here remark that a very extensive traffic in slaves is carried on from Abbeokuta

and the countries beyond, through the said creek of Cotenoo and others leading from Porto Novo towards Whydah; and could these passages be permanently blocked up, a severe blow would be inflicted upon the Port Novo slave dealers, while our revenue would, as above demonstrated, receive great benefits from the measure. I also intended to impose a licence tax upon all boats and canoes belonging to Lagos, and plying on the lagoons; but have judged it expedient to defer this measure for the present.

* * * * * * *

Taking a general view of the revenue and expenditure for the past year, it will be seen that the increase over the preceding year, if any, is inconsiderable. The only decrease of importance appears in the customs; this is owing to the continuance of the desolating and internecine war waged without intermission, and for selfish and ambitious purposes, by the Egba tribe against the Ibadans. This contest entirely closes up the trade from the great Yornba country and the Niger beyond; and until these native quarrels are put an end to, trade must remain in the depressed condition in which it has been for the last four years. The apparent increase in revenue over the year 1863, when the decrease is deducted therefrom, will therefore on examination prove comparatively illusory. The net increase, viz., 5,206*l.*, is more than accounted for by the "Parliamentary Grant" and "Loans."

The number of Ordinances passed during 1864 amounts to 13. Of these, the principal are No. 5, being "An Ordinance to regulate and establish the Duties in Lagos, &c.;" No. 6, "Establishing a Petty Debt Court," which is composed entirely of coloured men, and appears to work satisfactorily and fairly; No. 7, "An Ordinance to make Provision "for the Prevention of Smuggling within the Settlement of Lagos," based on the "Consolidated Customs' Act," and also adapted from a similar enactment at Sierra Leone, and No. 8, alluded to in paragraph 2 of this letter.

The very considerable increase in the cost of the Armed Houssa Police is caused principally by their having been left until my arrival very indifferently clothed, and the very large contingent expenses were caused by the calling out of an addition hundred in the middle of the year; the weakness of the military force at the station incapacitating the regular troops from supplying even the regular guards to the Colony.

In conclusion, I would beg to state that the past year has been as unfavourable a one as could possibly occur; and the depression of trade, amounting at times to an almost total suspension of business, brought the resources of the Settlement to their lowest ebb. Nevertheless the Colony has struggled through what I think I am justified in calling its most critical period, and the partial brightening of the horizon at the commencement of the present year gives me confidence in affirming that matters are improved, and are still rapidly improving. I sincerely believe that the Blue Book for the present year will bear a very advantageous comparison with the one which I have now the honour to enclose.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) JOHN W. GLOVER, Lieutenant-Governor.

ST. HELENA.

No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir CHARLES ELLIOT, K.C.B., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 49.)

SIR, St. Helena, July 24, 1865.

HEREWITH I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1864.

2. The disastrous situation of circumstances in this town, arising from the devastation by the white ant, has rendered it my duty to report fully and minutely in other places on the whole situation of the Island connected with that subject. Trusting that the loan which you have been pleased to authorize may shortly be raised, and that the work of reconstruction may then be vigorously prosecuted, I propose to defer any further observations until the next year.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

14420.

New South Wales.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 16.

No. 16.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Honourable Sir John Young, Bart., to the Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, M.P.

(No. 39.)

Sir, Government House, Sydney, May 19, 1865.

I have the honour to forward herewith copies of the New South Wales Blue Book for the year 1864.

2. It is prepared in the same form as last year, and the remark then made applies to the statistical tables, which will be forwarded separately.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) JOHN YOUNG.

Registrar-General's Report on the Statistical Register for 1864.

To the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Sir, Registrar-General's Office, Sydney, September 1, 1865.

In presenting to you the annual Statistical Register for the year 1864, I avail myself of the opportunity of offering a few cursory remarks in elucidation of the returns, and of the progress of which they bear evidence.

Part I.—Population, Immigration, Vital Statistics, &c.

Population.

2. The population table shows a net increase of 13,655 persons, or 3·60 per cent. on the numbers of the previous year, viz. :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
On 31st December 1863 - - -	209,636	169,298	378,934
Increase - - - -	6,721	6,934	13,655
On 31st December 1864 - - -	216,357	176,232	392,589

The natural increase of the population by the excess of births over deaths was 10,436, or at the rate of 2·75 per cent., and by the excess of arrivals over departures, 3,219, or 0·84 per cent.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

3. As these are the subject of a special report, but little notice need here be taken.

The following table shows the number of marriages, births, and deaths registered in the Colony during the years 1863 and 1864 :—

Year.	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.
1863 - - - -	3,314	15,679	6,653
1864 - - - -	3,480	16,881	6,445
Increase - - -	166	1,202	—
Decrease - - -	—	—	208

Marriages.

The increase in marriages in 1864 was 166. The largest number recorded in one year was that of 1864, 3,480. To every 112 of the population a marriage was celebrated.

Births.

The increase in births in 1864 over 1863 was 1,202. The births were in the ratio of 100 males to each 92 females.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

It is satisfactory to know that the deaths decreased in 1864, compared with 1863, by 208 in number. To every 100 males dying there were 66 females. The climate was particularly favourable, and no virulent epidemic prevailed among the community. Scarlatina was the disease most fatal, and that principally amongst the infantile population. Deaths.

Immigration.

4. The figures in the immigration table indicate the arrivals from the United Kingdom only. Previous to the year 1863 the immigration agent has been in the habit of furnishing, by means of information obtained from the custom-house, intercolonial as well as foreign arrivals; but as that officer has only to do with arrivals from the United Kingdom, he has confined the table to the immigration coming within his own cognizance.

This explanation will account for the apparent falling off in the numbers who arrived in the Colony in 1863 and 1864, compared with previous years.

The total arrivals in 1864 were as follows:— Immigration.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
From the United Kingdom - - - -	1,990	1,987	3,977
Intercolonial and foreign - - - -	13,394	3,296	16,690
Totals - - - -	15,384	5,283	20,667
Deduct departures - - - - - -	13,582	3,866	17,448 Emigration.
Net increase by immigration over emigration -	1,802	1,417	3,219

The religions of the immigrants at the public expense were— Religion.

Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Other Religion.
1,616	2,354	7

and their native countries were— Native countries.

England and Wales.	Scotland.	Ireland.	Other Countries.
732	275	2,951	19

Charitable Institutions.

5. The following table shows the number of inmates in the various establishments during the year 1864, as well as the receipts and disbursements for the same period.

Institutions.	In the Establishment during the Year.	Paupers receiving Out-door Relief.	Total.	Receipts.	Disbursements.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Hospitals - -	3,642	3,357	6,999	25,077 11 2	24,666 19 6
Benevolent Asylums -	2,433	1,717	4,150	13,665 10 10	15,154 4 11
Orphan Schools, &c. -	1,159	—	1,159	7,113 8 1	7,103 12 6
Invalid and Lunatic -	1,186	—	1,186	19,764 13 9	19,764 13 9
Miscellaneous - -	464	—	464	2,535 0 0½	2,987 19 8½
Totals - -	8,884	5,074	13,958	68,156 3 10½	69,677 10 4½

It appears that the total number receiving relief during the year 1864 amounted to 13,958 persons, and the receipts in aid of these amounted to 68,156*l.* 3*s.* 10½*d.*, or at the rate of 4*l.* 17*s.* 7¾*d.* per head; and the disbursements to 69,677*l.* 10*s.* 4½*d.*, or at the rate of 4*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* Receipts per head. Disbursements per head.

The return is incomplete for the want of a few returns from some of the institutions;* and I very much regret that, although repeated applications were made for them, I have been unable to succeed in my requirements. Incompleteness of return.

* Hospital, Yass; Benevolent Asylum, Cooma; Asylum for Destitute Children, and the Sydney House of Refuge.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Rates of Wages.

6. The average rates of wages ruling since the year 1855 will be seen by the following table :—

	Town. Wages per Diem, without Board and Lodging.				Country. Wages per Annum, with Board and Lodging.			
	1855.	1858.	1861.	1864.	1855.	1858.	1861.	1864.
MALES—	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. s.*	£	£	£	£
Carpenters	15 0	10 0	10 0	8 to 9	—	85	—	50 to 80
Smiths	15 0	10 6	10 0	9 to 10	—	83	—	50 to 80
Wheelwrights	15 0	10 0	10 6	9 to 10	—	77	—	50 to 80
Bricklayers	17 0	10 6	11 0	9 to 10	—	87	—	80 to 100
Masons	17 0	10 6	11 6	10	—	90	—	80 to 100
Farm Labourers	—	5 6	—	—	30 to 40	40	30 to 40	28 to 30
Shepherds	—	4 0	—	—	30 to 35	30	30 to 35	30 to 35

The daily wages reduced from 15*s.* in 1855 to 10*s.* 6*d.* in 1858, and 10*s.* in 1864. In the country, in 1858, the wages ranged from 30*l.* to 85*l.* per annum, and in 1864 from 30*l.* to 100*l.* In the years 1855 to 1857 tradesmen and others were unwilling to enter into any engagements of a permanent character, owing to the great excitement caused by our gold fields.

	Wages per Annum with Board and Lodging.			
	1855.	1858.	1861.	1864.
FEMALES—				
Cooks	25 to 30	26	25 to 30	26 to 30
Housemaids	18 to 25	23	20 to 25	20 to 26
Laundresses	25 to 30	26	25 to 30	26 to 30
Nursemaids	15 to 20	19	15 to 20	15 to 26
General House Servants	20 to 26	25	20 to 25	20 to 30
Farm House Servants, and Dairy Women, &c.	20 to 24	25	20 to 25	18 to 26

The wages of these domestics have altered but a trifle for the better, and would indicate that the supply has been equal to the demand. The year 1858 seems to have commanded the lowest rate of wages.

Provisions and Clothing.

7. The charges upon articles of consumption in the return under this heading may be of interest; I therefore append a table of some of the principal items, showing the rates ruling between 1855 and 1864 :—

	Year.			
	1855.	1858.	1861.	1864.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Wheat per bushel	16 5	10 3	6 6	12 0
Bread (1st quality) per pound	0 6	0 4½	0 4	0 3
Flour do. do.	0 7	0 4½	0 3	0 3
Rice do.	0 6	0 6	0 4	0 3
Oatmeal do.	0 9	0 7	0 6	0 4
Tea do.	2 5	2 6	2 4	2 0
Sugar do.	0 7	0 7	0 5½	0 4½
Coffee do.	1 8	1 8	1 6	1 4
Meat, fresh do.	0 6	0 4	0 3	0 4
Butter, do. do.	2 4	2 0	1 8	1 6
Cheese, English do.	1 10	1 8	1 7	1 6
Potatoes per cwt.	21 4	15 6	7 3	5 0

PART II.—RELIGION, EDUCATION, AND CRIME.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Ministers. Places of worship, &c.

8. The number of registered ministers is stated to be 411, being an increase of 72 on the numbers of the previous year.

The number of places of worship of the different denominations, and accommodation, with the average attendance, will be found as follows:—

DENOMINATION.	Number of Places of Worship.	Accommodation.	Average Attendance.
Church of England	490	44,555	34,754
Roman Catholic	181	27,751	23,057
Presbyterian	176	17,574	10,414
Wesleyan Methodist	331	29,000	26,260
Independent Wesleyan Methodist	3	500	390
Primitive Methodist	38	4,062	1,780
Congregational	47	8,086	6,201
Baptist	8	1,734	920
Unitarian	1	230	85
Mariners*	—	—	—
Jewish	2	700	325
Christian Israelites	13	732	272
Totals	1,290	134,924	104,458

* No return could be obtained from the minister officiating at the Mariners' Church.

The proportionate attendance of the various denominations was as follows:—

Per-centages.

Church of England	33·30 per cent.
Roman Catholic	22·07 ,,
Presbyterian	9·97 ,,
Wesleyan Methodist	25·13 ,,
Independent Wesleyan Methodist	0·37 ,,
Primitive Methodist	1·70 ,,
Congregational	5·93 ,,
Baptist	0·88 ,,
Unitarian	0·08 ,,
Mariners	—
Jewish	0·31 ,,
Christian Israelites	0·26 ,,

The Church of England had the largest attendance, being 33·30 per cent., or nearly one-third; the Wesleyans came next, with 25·13 per cent., or a little better than a fourth; and then the Roman Catholic Church, with 22·07 per cent., being a little more than one-fifth of the church-going community.

Sunday Schools.

9. The number of Sunday schools in 1864 is 539, against 478 the year previous, being an increase of 61.

Whilst the schools have increased, the teachers have diminished from 3,482 in 1863, to 3,431 in 1864; the apparent decrease amounting to 51.

Increase and decrease.

The number of children frequenting these schools was—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In 1863*	*	*	27,313
In 1864	14,529	15,573	30,102
Increase			2,789

or 10 per cent.

49· per cent were males, and 51· per cent. females.

* The incompleteness of some of the returns does not admit of the sexes being given.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The children of the different denominations were—

Church of England - -	9,510 or	31·59 per cent.
Roman Catholic - -	4,580 „	15·21 „
Presbyterian - - -	2,593 „	8·61 „
Wesleyan - - -	8,964 „	29·78 „
Congregational - -	2,954 „	9.81 „
Other - - -	1,501 „	4·99 „

On an average, each teacher in 1864 had the religious instruction of nine children, and in the year previous eight children.

Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining returns from some of the denominations, and in some cases when the returns came to hand they were of little use.

Daily Schools.

10. The summary table of daily schools has been made more complete than hitherto. Formerly the number of schools was only given, but this year I have succeeded in obtaining the schools of both sexes, distinguishing the boys from the girls, and those where the pupils were miscellaneous.

The following table will show at a glance the improvement in our scholastic institutions in 1864, compared with 1863.

	Number of Schools.				Number of Scholars.			
	1863.	1864.	Increase.	Decrease.	1863.	1864.	Increase.	Decrease.
Orphan Schools - -	2	2	—	—	436	460	24	—
Destitute Children's Asylum -	1	1	—	—	365	—	—	—
Denominational Schools -	333	336	3	—	20,575	21,841	1,266	—
National Schools - -	214	228	14	—	15,725	16,255	530	—
University of Sydney -	1	1	—	—	32	33	1	—
St. Paul's College - -	1	1	—	—	9	8	—	1
St. John's College - -	1	1	—	—	2	8	6	—
Sydney Grammar School -	1	1	—	—	111	138	27	—
Private Schools - -	422	452	30	—	9,555	9,684	129	—
Totals - -	976	1,023	47	—	46,810	48,427	1,983	1

A marked increase is to be observed in all the institutions, with the exception of St. Paul's College, which exhibits a decrease of one.

I am unable to make any comparison with the Asylum for destitute Children, not having received any return of the working of that institution.

Under the Denominational system each school averaged 65 scholars.

Under the National system each school averaged 71 scholars.

The amount contributed by the State towards the support of Denominational schools was 49,093*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*, or at the rate of 2*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* per head; and from voluntary contributions, 16,663*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, or at the rate of 15*s.* 3*d.* per head.

The State contributed towards the support of National schools 35,901*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*, or at the rate of 2*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* per head; and from voluntary contributions, 12,331*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*, or 15*s.* 2*d.* per head was received.

The total sum paid in the year 1864 for the support of educational establishments was 105,220*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, or at the rate of 5*s.* 4¼*d.* per head of the population.

Increase in schools and scholars in 10 years.

In the year 1854 there were 413 schools, and 25,953 scholars. The increase during the last ten years has been 609 schools, or over 151· per cent.; and 22,474 scholars, or over 86· per cent.

Crime.

Commitments for trial.

11. Compared with 1863, the returns show a decrease in the number of commitments for trial to the higher Courts of Justice of 2, whilst the Courts of Quarter Sessions exhibit an increase of 90, making a total increase of 88, as shown in the following table:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Convictions.

Year.	Supreme Court.			Courts of Quarter Sessions.			General Total.
	Felonies.	Misdemeanors.	Total.	Felonies.	Misdemeanors.	Total.	
1864 - - -	199	43	242	558	175	733	975
1863 - - -	196	48	244	475	168	643	887
Increase - -	3	—	—	83	7	90	88
Decrease - -	—	5	2	—	—	—	—

The convictions in the Supreme Court show an increase over the previous year of 32 and the Courts of Quarter Sessions an increase of 61, viz. :—

Year.	Supreme Court.			Courts of Quarter Sessions.			General Total.
	Felonies.	Misdemeanors.	Total.	Felonies.	Misdemeanors.	Total.	
1864 - - -	134	31	165	319	106	425	590
1863 - - -	114	19	133	280	84	364	497
Increase - -	20	12	32	39	22	61	93

Commitments and convictions.

The following table gives the proportion of commitments, as well as the convictions, to the population, and also the per-centage of convictions to commitments since 1861 :—

Year.	Population.	Commitments.	Convictions.	Proportion to Population.		Per-centage of Convictions to Commitments.
				Commitments.	Convictions.	
1861 - - -	353,332	820	437	1 in 430	1 in 808	53·29
1862 - - -	365,741	879	514	1 in 416	1 in 711	58·47
1863 - - -	371,160	887	497	1 in 418	1 in 746	56·03
Mean of three years -	—	862	483	1 in 421	1 in 755	55·93
1864 - - -	385,893	975	590	1 in 395	1 in 654	60·51
Increase on average -	—	113	107	1 in 30	1 in 101	4·58
Mean of four years -	—	890	509	1 in 415	1 in 730	57·07

From this table we perceive—

Commitments.

Firstly. The commitments rose from 820, or a proportion of 1 in every 430 of the population, in 1861, to 879, or 1 in 416 of the population, in 1862. That the commitments in 1863, although larger in number than either of the two previous years, bore a better ratio to the population than in 1862, but not so good as 1861. That 1864 bore a worse ratio than either of the three preceding years, the commitments being 975, or 1 in every 395 of the population. That the average of the four years was 890, or 1 in every 415 of the population.

Convictions.

Secondly. The convictions increased from 437, or 1 in every 808 of the population, in 1861, to 514, or 1 in every 711 of the population, in 1862. That in 1863 the convictions were 497, or 1 in 746 of the population, being much better than 1862, but not so good as 1861. That the year 1864 was far worse than either of the preceding years, the number being 590, or 1 in every 654 of the population. That the year 1864 was far above the average. That the four years' average was 509, or 1 in 730 of the population.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Thirdly. We find that of the committals 53· per cent in 1861, 58· per cent. in 1862 56·per cent. in 1863, and 60· per cent. in 1864 were brought home to conviction.

The average of the four years was 57·per cent.

Taking the mean of the three years 1859 to 1861, and 1862 to 1864, the following results are elicited:—

	Proportion to Population.	
	Commitments.	Convictions.
1859 to 1861 - -	1 in 451 - -	1 in 813
1862 to 1864 - -	1 in 413 - -	1 in 703
Difference - -	38, or 9·20 per cent.	1120, or 15 per cent.

Summary Jurisdiction.

The numbers taken into custody by the police were 12,826 males and 4,032 females, disposed of in the several Courts of Petty Sessions in the following way:—

Offences.	*Taken into Custody.		Convicted.		Committed for Trial.		Discharged.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Against the Person - -	5,520	2,273	3,347	1,586	281	37	1,892	650
„ Property - -	†3,319	702	1,237	354	732	82	1,349	266
Seamen's - - } Prisoners of the Crown - }	537	—	283	—	2	—	252	—
Drunkards' - - -	3,450	1,057	1,071	179	—	1	2,379	877
Total - -	12,826	4,032	5,938	2,119	1,015	120	5,872	1,793

* The return refers to cases, not to individuals. † One escaped from custody.

In the Metropolitan district the numbers brought before the two courts were 2,937, males and 1,861 females for offences against the person; 1,248 males and 514 females for offences against property; and 921 males and 576 females for drunkenness; together, 8,057, or nearly 48·per cent. of the total apprehensions in the Colony.

The males numbered 5,106; of which 1,420, or nearly 28· per cent., can read and write; 2,852, or nearly 55·per cent. can read only, and 834, or 16· per cent., can neither read nor write. Of the 2,951 females, 263, or 8· per cent., can read and write; 1,564, or 53·per cent., can read only; and 1,124, or 38 per cent., can neither read nor write.

The apprehensions in the whole Colony during the last six years, and the proportion they bore to the population, will be found as follows:—

Year.	Population at the Middle of the Year.	Apprehensions.	Ratio to Population.	
			Per 1,000.	Or
1859	330,860	18,018	54·458	1 in 18
1860	330,840	19,193	58·013	1 in 17
1861	353,332	16,737	47·368	1 in 21
1862	365,741	15,410	42·133	1 in 23
1863	371,160	15,855	42·717	1 in 23
1864	385,893	16,858	43·685	1 in 22
Mean of Six Years - - -			46·930	1 in 21

The years 1862 and 1863 were the most favourable, the apprehensions being 1 to every 23 of the population; the year 1860, the most unfavourable, being 1 to 17. The mean of six years was 1 to every 21 of the population.

Part III.—Trade and Commerce.

12. The customs returns, numbered 40 to 95 inclusive, manifest a large increase in trade, and tend to show in a great way the wealth and industry of the people.

The total value of imports, as declared at the Custom House, shows an increase over the previous year of more than a million and a half sterling, and the exports an increase of more than a million sterling, as shown in the following table:— NEW SOUTH WALES.

Imports and exports.

——	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of	
			Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - -	3,856,161	2,559,380	1,296,781	—
British Colonies - -	4,906,304	5,379,062	—	472,758
Foreign States - -	1,073,577	178,775	894,802	—
1864 - -	9,836,042	8,117,217	1,718,825	—
1863 - -	8,319,576	6,936,839	1,382,737	—
Increase -	1,516,466	1,180,378	336,088	—

Taking the decennial tables of imports and exports, and dividing them into quinquennial periods, we find that the average value of imports, from 1855 to 1859, was 5,903,063*l.*; from 1860 to 1864, 8,280,220*l.*, or an increase of 2,377,157*l.* The exports, from 1855 to 1859, averaged 3,856,257*l.*, against 6,564,695*l.* in 1860 to 1864, showing an increase of 2,708,438*l.*

The imports were at the rate of 25*l.* 9*s.* 9¼*d.* per head of the population at the middle of the year,* and the exports at the rate of 21*l.* 0*s.* 8¼*d.* per head. Imports.

The articles of import exhibiting the greatest increase, compared with 1863, were,—

——	1863.	1864.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Coffee - - -	18,924	50,140	31,216
Flour and bread - -	192,923	522,553	329,630
Gold and coin - -	499,324	1,757,378	1,258,054
Grain - - -	278,448	457,354	178,906
Tobacco - - -	113,933	231,692	117,759
Wool - - -	647,426	835,949	188,523
Leather - - -	261,597	365,121	103,524

Those showing a decrease were beer, hardware, linen, and drapery, and spirits.

The amount collected at the Custom House upon dutiable and warehoused goods, imported during the year and previous years, was— Dutiable goods.

In 1864 -	538,445*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, against	
	616,008*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* the year before.	
Showing a decrease of - -		77,562*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*

The extensive trade carried on between the Colonies is somewhat remarkable.

The value of goods imported from Victoria was close upon two millions, and the exports thereto nearly a million of pounds sterling.

Queensland ranks next. The imports from this Colony amounted in value to over a million sterling, whilst the exports thereto was nearly a million and a quarter. The imports consist principally of wool sent here for shipment to the mother country.

Then comes New Zealand. The value of imports from this Colony was 715,278*l.*, and the exports thereto over a million of pounds sterling.

Colonial Produce.

Of the total value of exports seaward (8,117,217*l.*), 5,746,678*l.* was the produce of our own industry. Exports, produce of the Colony.

* 385,893.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The following are some of the principal items of export, and show a large increase on the previous year :—

——	1863.	1864.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Butter and cheese - -	22,550	43,261	20,711	—
Carts, drays, and waggons -	21,576	24,499	2,923	—
Coals - - - -	220,181	212,488	—	7,693
Gold - - - -	2,361,949	2,952,471	590,522	—
Flour and bread - -	39,616	69,300	29,684	—
Fruit - - - -	39,073	38,946	—	127
Grain - - - -	136,934	118,885	—	18,049
Hay - - - -	6,682	10,709	4,027	—
Leather - - -	33,875	35,041	1,166	—
Live stock - - -	109,821	166,552	56,731	—
Machinery - - -	1,528	8,617	7,089	—
Provisions - -	25,754	28,270	2,516	—
Skins - - - -	94,072	105,747	11,675	—
Soap - - - -	8,717	11,522	2,805	—
Tallow - - - -	31,221	100,654	69,433	—
Wool - - - -	1,262,274	1,628,493	366,219	—
Timber - - -	42,190	37,772	—	4,418

During the last five years the value of *New South Wales products* amounted to nearly twenty-three millions of pounds sterling.

Wool.

Export overland.

With regard to our great staple commodity, wool, we find, upon reference to the border customs returns, which are compiled from the 17th September to the 31st December inclusive only (the time of the establishment of border customs stations by the Government along the River Murray), that the quantity that crossed the Murray *en route* to Victoria was :—

	lbs.
Viâ Albury - - - - -	306,662
„ Corowa - - - - -	725,725
„ Moama* - - - -	3,956,050
„ Swan Hill Crossing - - - -	1,122,240
„ Euston† - - - - -	48,650
Making a total of - - - -	6,159,327
To which should be added an export to South Australia of - - - - -	1,254,060
Making an export overland of - - -	7,413,387
Then add export seaward - - -	18,414,530
Which will show a grand export for New South Wales of - - - -	25,827,917

The border customs returns, although only for a little better than a quarter of the year, will augment considerably the import and export returns seaward.

Imports and exports overland.

The imports and exports overland were as follows :—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
Viâ Albury - - -	114,265	73,110
„ Corowa - - -	23,381	57,785
„ Moama - - -	46,841	573,297
„ Swan Hill Crossing - -	10,930	95,549
„ Euston - - -	8,109	15,690
„ Wentworth - - -	96,140	105,184
Totals overland - -	299,666	920,615
Add seaward - -	9,836,042	8,117,217
General total - - -	10,135,708	9,037,832

* 11,303 bales, calculated at 350 lbs. per bale.
† 139 bales, do. do.

Shipping.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

13. The shipping returns will confirm the flourishing state of trade.

The inward and outward shipping to and from the several ports, compared with 1863, show a large increase, viz.:— Inwards and outwards.

	Vessels Inwards.		Vessels Outwards.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Sydney - -	1,119	397,004	987	365,907
Newcastle - -	664	196,961	795	266,528
Eden - -	23	9,007	26	10,832
Grafton and Richmond River -	43	4,196	34	3,790
Totals -	1,849	607,168	1,842	647,057
Totals 1863 -	1,494	479,827	1,603	511,373
Increase -	355	127,341	239	135,684

The nationality of these was— Nationality.

	1864.		1863.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British -	1,716	546,478	1,372	422,842
Foreign -	133	60,690	122	56,985

The arrivals from Great Britain have decreased from 112 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 86,755 tons, in 1863, to 102 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 80,166 tons, in the year 1864. Arrivals from Great Britain.

It is quite the reverse with departures; for 37 vessels, of a tonnage of 33,066 tons, were homeward bound in 1864, against 33 vessels, of a tonnage of 30,060 tons, the year before. Departures to Great Britain.

Forty new vessels were built, of the aggregate tonnage of 3,814 tons.

PART IV.—MILLS AND MANUFACTURES.

14. I have but little to notice in the tables under this heading.

In the return of mills for grinding and dressing grain, it appears those worked by water, wind, and horse are being gradually superseded by steam mills. The number of mills in 1864 was 174: this is a decrease on the previous year of 6. Mills.

The number of manufactories, works, &c. was 2,084, against 1,768 the year before, showing an increase of 316.

The operations of some of our manufactories, compared with 1863, will be found as follows:— Manufactures.

	1864.		1863.	
	No. of Manufactories.	Quantity produced.	No. of Manufactories.	Quantity produced.
Woollens -	5	91,800 yards.	5	64,650 yards.
Soap -	26	74,900 cwt.	33	60,947 cwt.
Tobacco -	39	8,619½ ,,	31	4,808 ,,
Refined sugar	5	118,480 ,,	5	169,280 ,,

Of woollens manufactured there is an increase of 27,150 yards. The two last years show a falling off of 117,663 yards compared with the two previous years. This may be attributed to the large quantity of stock in hand from the two previous years' manufacture.

The tobacco manufactories show an increase of 8, whilst the quantity manufactured has nearly doubled that of the previous year.

The boiling-down establishments have increased from 39 in 1863 to 57 in 1864; the sheep slaughtered have increased from 7,574 in 1863 to the number of 39,927 in 1864; the slaughter of cattle has likewise increased from 30,335 head in 1863 to 60,090 in 1864, having nearly doubled the number of the previous year. The produce was 57,594 cwt. of tallow in 1863, and 75,241 cwt. in 1864. 4,569 pigs produced 19,736 lbs. of lard. Boiling-down establishments.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Mining.

Gold.

15. The quantity and value of gold brought to the mint by escort from the several gold fields exhibit a considerable decrease on the returns of the previous year, as shown in the following table:—

	Western District.		Southern District.		Northern District.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Ozs.	£	Ozs.	£	Ozs.	£
1863 - - -	215,443	818,741	170,766	669,700	37,198	140,607
1864 - - -	149,709	562,425	139,270	544,253	27,450	104,491
Decrease - -	65,734	256,316	31,496	125,447	9,748	36,116

The total quantity of gold received in 1864 was 316,429 ozs., against 423,407 ozs. in 1863, showing a decrease of 106,978 ozs., or 25 per cent.

The values of the gold as tested in the mint ranged from 3*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* to 3*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* in the western district; 3*l.* 15*s.* to 4*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* in the southern district; and 3*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* to 3*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* in the northern district.

Although the foregoing table indicates pretty clearly a falling off in the yield of the precious ore at the gold fields, to arrive at their true state we must take the quantity of gold received into the mint for coinage, and that passed through the Customs for export, in its natural state, since 1862; by doing this we find a falling off in 1863 of 180,910 ozs. of the value of 691,573*l.*; and in 1864, compared with 1863, a decrease of 107,623 ozs., of the value of 423,301*l.*, shown as follows:—

	1862.		1863.		1864.	
	Ozs.	£	Ozs.	£	Ozs.	£
Mint - - -	587,895	2,262,471	401,713	1,545,419	308,670	1,181,898
Customs - -	26,363	93,391	31,635	118,870	17,055	59,090
Total - -	614,258	2,355,862	433,348	1,664,289	325,725	1,240,988

Coal, copper, and iron mines.

Not only the coal, but the copper and iron mines appear to have been worked with unwonted energy.

Coal.

The quantity of coal raised at the mines in 1864 was 549,012 tons, of the stated value of 270,171*l.*, against 433,889 tons, of the value of 236,230*l.*, the year previous.

Export of coal.

We exported to—

			£
Victoria - - -	133,484	tons, valued at	69,192
New Zealand - -	74,644	„ „	40,700
South Australia - -	60,750	„ „	29,183
Shanghai - - -	35,852	„ „	26,142
United States - -	17,619	„ „	11,828
Hong Kong - - -	10,370	„ „	9,543
Other places - - -	39,747	„ „	25,900
Making a total quantity exported of	372,466		212,488

Number of mines.

The number of mines in 1864 was 25, four of which were not worked, against 20 mines the year before, two of which were not worked, showing an increase of five.

Copper.

The Cadiangullong copper mine, near Orange, yielded 1,800 tons of ore, of the value of 14,600*l.*

The Quedong copper mine, near Bombala, yielded 300 tons of ore, valued at 7,500*l.*

The two mines at Broulee, consisting of gold, silver, lead, sulphur, and arsenic, were in active operation, but the particulars could not be ascertained.

Iron.

The Fitz Roy iron mine, at Berrima, produced 2,000 tons of ore, valued at 500*l.*

There are other mines, consisting of copper and lead, but are not at work.

Part V.—Agriculture.

New South Wales.

16. The number of occupiers of land (exclusive of those for pastoral purposes) has increased from 19,361 in 1863, to 21,540 in 1864; of these, 13,166 were freeholders, and 8,374 leaseholders.

Occupiers of land.

The extent of their holdings increased from 7,310,343 acres in 1863, to 7,545,117 acres in 1864, of which 3,975,148 acres were freeholds, and 3,569,969 acres leaseholds.

Holdings.

The extent of land in cultivation was 321,526 acres, against 308,260 acres the year before; the increase being 13,266 acres, or 4· per cent.

Land in cultivation.

The enclosed lands not in cultivation decreased from 1,817,218 acres in 1863, to 1,742,128 acres in 1864; the decrease being 75,090 acres, or 4 per cent.

Enclosed lands.

The lands unenclosed increased from 5,184,864 acres in 1863, to 5,481,463 acres in 1864; the increase being 296,599 acres, or 5·per cent.

Lands unenclosed.

There were 318,854 acres in crop, against 307,035 acres the year before, showing an increase of 11,819 acres, or 3·70 per cent.

Acres in crop.

The wheat crpp for grain amounted to 104,568 acres in 1864, showing a small increase of 626 acres over the crop of the previous year. The produce of the first year was 1,246,458 bushels, or an average of nearly 12 bushels to the acre, whilst the year 1863 produced 808,919 bushels, or a trifle better than 7¾ bushels to the acre.

Wheat for grain.

It must be borne in mind, however, that the year 1863 was one of particular misfortune to the farmers. The disastrous floods which visited the Colony in this year not only swept whole fields of wheat and other crops away, but destroyed also the homesteads of many happy families and left them completely destitute; so much so, indeed, that the Government as well as the public took the matter in hand. The former distributed large quantities of seed wheat to the needy, to enable them again to enter into their farming pursuits, and the latter rendered valuable assistance in supplying such necessary articles as was requisite for the time.

Cause of destruction of crops.

The year under review was not without its mishaps. The disease known as "rust," as well as floods in some districts, have helped to keep the average yield below its usual standard.

The wheat grown was at the rate of 3 bushels 10 lbs. per head of the population, and the year before, 2 bushels 8 lbs. per head.

Wheat per head of population.

The extent of land sown with maize for grain was 101,584½ acres against 95,688¾ acres the year previous.

Maize for grain.

The produce amounted to 3,114,211¾ bushels, or 30 bushels 39 lbs. per acre, being in excess 188,262 bushels, or 5 lbs. per acre of the year 1863.

The barley crop for grain was 4,723¾ acres, against 4,092¾ acres in 1863.

Barley for grain.

The produce was 60,355 bushels, showing a falling off of 6,654 bushels compared with the former year.

The breadth of land sown with oats for grain amounted to 14,098 acres, against 13,022¼ acres in 1863; the increase being 1,075¾ acres.

Oats for grain.

The produce amounted to 189,524 bushels, being 24,400 bushels less than the previous year.

The average to the acre was only 13 bushels 17 lbs. In 1863 it was 16 bushels 17 lbs. to the acre.

The potato crop covered 14,397½ acres of land, against 11,618½ acres the year before. The increase was 2,779 acres.

Potato crop.

The yield was 52,060¾ tons, or 19,920 tons in excess of 1863. The average was better than 3 tons 12 cwt. to the acre. In 1863 the average was 2¾ tons to the acre.

The quantity of land sown with seed for hay was 52,307½ acres—an increase of 4,016¼ acres over the previous year.

Hay crop.

The produce was 69,405 tons, showing a decrease of 1,143 tons compared with the former year.

The average to the acre was 1 ton 6 cwt. in 1864, and 1 ton 9 cwt. to the acre in 1863.

The cultivation of cotton is steadily increasing. In 1862, the first year it was introduced amongst the returns, 54¾ acres were under crop, and yielded 7,743 lbs. In 1863 the crop fell to 18¾ acres, with a produce of 1,600 lbs.; this year the crop reached 175½ acres, producing 29,012 lbs. The Clarence appears to be the principal growing district, having 170 acres, with a produce of 28,900 lbs.

Cotton crop.

Notwithstanding the heavy duty upon imported tobacco, and the large price ruling for this article, it appears to make but slow progress. There were 806¾ acres planted, and produced 4,036 cwt. of the weed. In 1863, 534¼ acres were sown, and yielded

Tobacco crop.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

4,851 cwt. The year 1862 was the most satisfactory, having 895¾ acres planted, and produced 15,315½ cwt.

Sugar cane crop.

The cultivation of the sugar cane is now finding its way amongst the returns; 22½ acres were under crop, and produced 4,478 lbs. In 1863, 2 acres only were planted and produced 280 lbs.

Green food for cattle.

The acreage for green food for cattle was 12,341¼ acres. In 1863 it was 17,653 acres.

Gardens and orchards.

Gardens and orchards, and all other in crop, amounted to 10,910¼ acres, against 9,755 acres in 1863.

Vineyards.

The cultivation of the vine is largely on the increase. The following table will give the results of this branch of industry for the last three years:—

Year ended	Wine Making.			Table Use.		Unproductive.
	Acres.	Wine Produced.	Brandy Manufactured.	Acres.	Quantity Obtained.	
		Gallons.	Gallons.		Tons. cwts.	Acres.
31st March 1863 -	794¾	144,888	2,749	307½	420 15½	357¼
31st March 1864 -	880¼	136,976	2,033	381½	393 15	379
31st March 1865 -	945¼	161,298¾	3,077	332¾	344 17	571

Pastoral.

17. The live stock returns show an increase over the previous year of 22,013 horses, 480,551 sheep, and 28,255 pigs; whilst the cattle show a decrease of 108,403 in number, as follows:—

——	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
31st March 1865—	No.	No.	No.	No.
Counties - - -	193,844	659,929	2,364,374	127,309
Pastoral Districts - -	90,723	1,264,190	5,907,146	36,845
Total - - -	284,567	1,924,119	8,271,520	164,154
31st March 1864 - -	262,554	2,032,522	7,790,969	135,899
Increase - -	22,013	—	480,551	28,255
Decrease - -	—	108,403	—	—

Cause of decrease in cattle.

The decrease in cattle is partly attributable to the start that boiling-down establishments have taken during the year under review, there being 57, against 39 establishments in operation the previous year; the cattle slaughtered for tallow numbering 60,090. The export of 18,500 head of cattle also partly accounts for the decrease; of this number, over 17,000 head went to supply the New Zealand market, and upwards of 1,000 were shipped to the French settlement known as New Caledonia.

The disease known as "Pleuro pneumonia" has also done its work of destruction.

PART VI.—MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

18. The returns that first present themselves under this heading have reference to the working of our banking institutions and the Sydney branch of the Royal mint.

Banks.

The rate of discount on local bills ranged from 7 to 10 per cent. per annum.

The maximum purchased rate of exchange on bills on London ranged from ½ to 1½ per cent. discount, and par, against ½ to 1¼ premium the year before. The minimum purchase rate ranged from 1 to 1½ per cent. discount, and par. The maximum selling rate was from par to 1½ per cent. premium; and the minimum selling rate from par to 1 per cent. discount.

Rates of interest.

The rates of interest allowed to depositors ranged from 3 to 6 per cent. per annum.

Coin and bullion.

The amount of coin and bullion in the mint and the banks on 31st December shows an increase on the previous year of 185,259*l.*, viz.:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.

	Mint.	Banks.		
	In Bullion.	In Coin.	In Bullion.	Total.
1864 -	44,230	1,144,117	25,560	1,213,907
1863 -	49,653	962,426	16,569	1,028,648
Increase - -				185,259

Paper currency.

The amount of paper currency in circulation by the several banks was 793,846*l.*, against 824,347*l.*, in 1863, showing a decrease of 30,501*l.* The circulation averaged, in 1864, 753,690*l.*, and the year previous, 827,199*l.* Whilst their liabilities have diminished, their assets have increased, compared with 1863, viz.:—

	Liabilities.	Assets.
31st December 1863 -	7,026,513	9,889,816
31st December 1864 -	6,858,631	10,552,092
	167,882 Decrease.	662,276 Increase.

Deposits.

Their deposits show a falling off of a little better than 1 per cent.

	31st December. 1863.	1864.	Decrease.
Deposits - -	5,631,097*l.*	5,562,884*l.*	68,213*l.*
Their discounts, &c. were on 31st December		1863	6,968,275*l.*
" " " "		1864	7,299,108*l.*
Increase - -			330,833*l.*

Savings bank.

The number of depositors in the savings bank increased from 16,332 in 1863, to 16,959 in 1864, whilst the amounts deposited have decreased from 767,947*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* in 1863, to 766,746*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* in 1864.

As this institution is the chief depository for the savings of the working classes, I have attached a table showing the number of depositors, amounts deposited, the average amount to each depositor, as well as the proportion of deposits to each depositor, since 1856:—

YEAR.	Population.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.	Average Sum deposited to each Depositor.	Proportion of Depositors to Population.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1856	286,873	10,424	623,489 3 7	59 16 3	1 in 27
1857	305,847	11,269	638,480 11 0	56 13 2	1 „ 27
1858	342,062	11,321	579,931 17 6	51 4 6	1 „ 30
1859	336,572	11,918	568,187 19 3	47 13 4	1 „ 28
1860	348,546	12,027	557,196 14 0	46 6 6	1 „ 29
1861	358,278	13,282	615,408 17 1	46 6 8	1 „ 26
1862	367,495	14,956	716,381 16 6	47 17 11	1 „ 24
1863	378,934	16,332	767,947 13 1	47 0 5	1 „ 23
1864	392,589	16,959	766,746 12 10	45 4 2	1 „ 23

By this it appears that, whilst the proportion of depositors to population in 1864 was the same as in 1863 (1 in 23), the average amount per head decreased from 47*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* in 1863, to 45*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* in 1864.

Five per cent. was the rate of interest paid to depositors up to 100*l.*; beyond this amount no interest is allowed.

Seven per cent. was the amount charged on loans on mortgage.

Mint.

The next return that presents itself is the one relative to the working of the Sydney branch of the Royal mint, from its opening on the 14th May 1855 to the 31st December 1864.

The amount of gold dust or bullion received for coinage during the year 1864 shows a considerable increase upon the previous year, viz.:—

	Quantity. Ozs.	Value.* £
1863 - - -	493,332 - -	1,908,526
1864 - - -	728,019 - -	2,878,398
Increase	234,687 - -	969,872

* At 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* per oz.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The increase is caused by large importations ftom Victoria, New Zealand, and Queensland.

Our own produce has fallen from 401,713 ozs. in 1863, to 308,670 in 1864, showing a decrease of 93,043 ozs.

The Colonies from which the gold came, and the quantities and values, will be found as follows :—

	Quantity. Ozs.	Value. £
New South Wales	308,670·64	1,181,898
Victoria	207,165·51	848,677
New Zealand	183,403·76	737,466
Queensland	26,837·92	102,945
Coin	1,941·52	7,412
Total	728,019·35	2,878,398

There was issued—

In coin—

	Sovereigns.	Half-Sovereigns.	Total Value. £
1863	1,255,500	558,500	1,534,750
1864	2,698,500	-	2,698,500
	1,443,000 increase.	558,500 decrease.	1,163,750 increase.

In bullion—

	Weight. Ozs.	Value. £
1863	84,549	342,212
1864	44,897	182,168
Decrease	39,652	160,044

showing a total increase in coin and bullion of 1,003,706.

The revenue of the mint was—

	1863. £	1864. £
From New South Wales Gold	18,555	14,399
Victoria ,,	1,033	4,871
New Zealand, &c. &c.	4,014	7,625
Total	23,602	26,895
Increase in 1864		£3,293

Since the opening of the mint there has been received for coinage 4,246,699 ozs. of gold, of the value of 16,577,343*l.*; and there has been issued—

	£
In coin	15,145,500
In bullion	1,395,779
Grand total	16,541,279

The revenue derived for the same period was 193,418*l.*

Public Accounts.

19. The following statement of receipts on account of the consolidated revenue fund, in the years 1863 and 1864, has been taken from the Auditor-General's printed abstracts :—

——	1863.	1864.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	616,008 12 1	538,445 13 6	—	77,562 18 7
Duty on Refined Sugar and Molasses	14,586 13 4	15,900 0 0	1,313 6 8	—
Duty on Spirits distilled in the Colony	35,650 13 7	10,085 8 6	—	25,565 5 1
Gold Revenue	44,370 0 3	35,823 2 0	—	8,546 18 3
Mint Receipts	23,602 12 11	26,895 15 1	3,293 2 2	—
Land Revenue	371,270 8 9	297,866 3 10	—	73,404 4 11
Postage	57,742 6 5	67,722 0 0	9,979 13 7	—
Licences	74,696 12 0	74,866 0 7	169 8 7	—
Fees of Office	25,662 6 3	24,698 18 3	—	963 8 0
Fines and Forfeitures	5,270 5 8	5,008 5 7	—	262 0 1
Rents—exclusive of Land	22,860 10 0	26,756 12 1	3,896 2 1	—
Railways	129,468 18 5	145,812 19 1	16,344 0 8	—
Electric Telegraph Receipts	31,904 15 2	30,753 4 4	—	1,151 10 10
Pilotage	12,901 4 0	14,991 12 9	2,090 8 9	—
Harbour Dues	1,459 3 4	1,544 7 2	85 3 10	—
Fees on Certificates of Competency to Masters of Vessels	442 6 0	625 10 0	183 4 0	—
Tonnage Dues, Newcastle	3,539 2 0	4,686 6 9	1,347 4 9	—
Ditto Wollongong	—	73 12 0	73 12 0	—
Ditto Kiama	—	32 3 0	32 3 0	—
Interest on City Debentures	5,000 0 0	15,000 0 0	10,000 0 0	—
Rates under the Chinese Immigrants' Regulation and Restriction Act of 1861	260 0 0	250 0 0	—	10 0 0
Commission on Money Orders	567 4 0	1,201 6 6	634 2 6	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	56,323 6 7	39,728 10 11	—	16,594 15 8
Schedule C.—Revenue derived from Bishopthorpe Estate	600 0 0	726 17 7	126 17 7	—
Proceeds of Treasury Bills, inclusive of 100,000*l.* received under a contract made with the Bank of New South Wales, pursuant to Clause 12 of the Treasury Bills Act, 27 Vict. No. 8.	—	270,543 4 5	270,543 4 5	—
Interest accrued on Treasury Bills at date of Sale	—	2,137 6 4	2,137 6 4	—
Collections under Scab in Sheep Act of 1863, 27 Vict. No. 6.	—	9,630 16 6	9,630 16 6	—
Total	1,534,187 0 9	1,661,805 16 9	331,679 17 5	204,061 1 5

The disbursements were—

——	1863.	1864.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Schedules to Imperial Act 18 & 19 Vict. cap. 54.	61,071 19 11	55,950 12 10	—	5,121 7 1
Supplements to Schedules A. and B.	4,580 14 6	3,694 16 1	—	885 18 5
Executive and Legislative	18,305 11 8	16,719 7 4	—	1,586 4 4
The Principal Secretary	521,032 3 11	521,307 7 11	275 4 0	—
Administration of Justice	59,478 2 1	68,034 12 0	8,556 9 11	—
Treasurer and Secretary for Finance and Trade	360,394 2 6	294,290 7 5	—	66,103 15 1
Secretary for Lands	292,313 14 9	238,150 19 10	—	54,162 14 11
Secretary for Public Works	423,666 9 4	341,667 18 4	—	81,998 11 0
Unclassified Expenditure	302,621 13 2	305,661 16 8	3,040 3 6	—
Total	2,043,464 11 10*	1,845,477 18 5	11,861 17 5	209,858 10 10

* Includes 280,003*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* for the service of the years 1857 to 1863, for which parliamentary authority was not obtained till after 31st December 1863.

The receipts were at the rate of 4*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* per head, and the disbursements 4*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* per head of the population at the middle of the year.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Loans.

The "loans" account (secured principal and interest upon the consolidated revenue fund,) on the 31st December 1863 was 5,802,980*l.*, which amount has been augmented by the sum of 270,200*l.*, borrowed under the Act 27 Vict., No. 8 (treasury bills account), making, in all, a debt, on 31st December 1864, of 6,073,180*l.*;* this is at the rate of 15*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.* per head of the population.

The annual amount of interest payable upon loans is 306,158*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.*, or at the rate of 15*s.* 7*d.* per head of the population.

PART VII.—RAILWAYS.

Coaching traffic.

20. The Great Northern and Southern lines of railway show an increase in the coaching traffic compared with the previous year. The former, in passenger (single and return), an increase of 23· per cent., and in receipts (inclusive of rents, &c.), of 27· per cent.; the latter, in passenger traffic, 6· per cent., and receipts, 5· per cent.: whilst the Great Western Railway exhibits a falling off in the number of passengers of 8· per cent., and in receipts, 3· per cent., as follows :—

Railways.	Coaching Traffic.			
	Number of Passengers.		Rents, &c.	Total Receipts.
	Single and Return.	Amount.		
		£	£	£
Great Northern Line :—				
1864 - -	247,377	21,288	6,138	27,426
1863 - -	200,385	18,549	2,995	21,544
Increase	46,992	2,739	3,343	5,882
	23· per cent.			27· per cent.
Great Southern Line :—				
1864 - -	360,808	38,759	1,364	40,123
1863 - -	337,675	36,248	1,953	38,201
Increase	23,133	2,511	- -	1,922
	6· per cent.			5· per cent.
Decrease -	- - -	- -	589	—
Great Western Line :—				
1864 - -	82,040	13,267	199	13,466
1863 - -	89,250	13,695	191	13,886
Increase -	- - -	- -	8	—
Decrease	7,210	428	- -	420
	8· per cent.			3· per cent.

The three lines of railway together show an increase of 62,915 passengers, and 7,383*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* in the total receipts, over the returns of the previous year.

Goods traffic.

The receipts from the goods traffic have increased 22· per cent. on the Northern line, and 7· per cent. on the Southern line, over the year 1863; but on the Western line of railway they decreased 4· per cent. as follows :—

——	Great Northern Line.	Great Southern Line.	Great Western Line.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1863 - - -	24,239 4 3	24,920 13 6	9,893 12 1
1864 - - -	29,784 16 7	26,732 7 2	9,473 8 8
Increase - -	5,545 12 4	1,811 13 8	Decrease 420 3 5
	22· per cent.	7· per cent.	4· per cent.
Total Increase -	£6,937 2 7		

The total receipts were 65,990*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, against 59,053*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* in 1863, being an increase of 6,937*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*, or nearly 12· per cent.

* Includes 761,550*l.* worth of debentures, the sale of which had not reached the Colony at the close of the year.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Coaching and goods traffic.

The total receipts from the coaching and goods traffic were 147,007*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, against 132,686*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* the year before; the increase being 14,321*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*, or 10· per cent.

Working expenses and construction of extensions, &c.

The expenditure for railways during the years 1863 and 1864 will be found as follows:—

	Working Expenses.		Construction of Extensions, &c.	
	1863.	1864.	1863.	1864.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Great Northern Railway -	32,980 0 6	37,275 11 8	98,074 3 1	70,822 19 7
Great Southern Railway -	53,471 13 1	56,494 13 10	158,993 6 7	147,569 16 3
Great Western Railway -	10,119 0 3	9,358 14 11	109,888 0 2	185,091 15 7
Total - -	96,570 13 10	103,129 0 5	366,955 9 10	403,484 11 5

Comparative view.

Having now pointed out the business done by our railways during the two years 1863 and 1864, we arrive at the following results:—

That the receipts from the Great Northern line of railway have increased 11,428*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, or 25· per cent.; and the working expenses have increased 4,295*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, or 13 per cent.

That the receipts from the Great Southern line of railway have increased 3,733*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, or 5 per cent.; and the working expenses have increased 3,023*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, or 5 per cent.

That whilst the receipts from the Great Western line of railway have diminished 840*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, or 3 per cent., there has been a saving in the working expenses of 760*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, or 7 per cent.

Electric Telegraph.

21. The electric telegraph receipts show a falling off of 185*l.* 17*s.* 6½*d.* compared with the former year, whilst the telegrams have increased 5,862 in number, shown as follows:—

	Telegrams. No.	Receipts. £ s. d.
1863 - -	124,638	- - 29,215 18 4½
1864 - -	130,500	- - 29,030 0 10
Increase	5,862	Decrease 185 17 6½

Money Orders.

22. This is a new feature amongst the returns; and judging from the number of money orders issued and paid the system has been very beneficial to the public.

The number of money orders issued was 21,905, to the amount of 105,680*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* There was paid 16,691 orders, of the amount of 84,040*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*

Post Offices, Letters, &c.

23. As this forms the subject of a special report by the Postmaster-General, it needs but little notice.

Post offices.

The number of post offices has increased from 397 in 1863 to 419 in 1864, the increase being 22.

Letters.

The number of letters passing throngh the General Post Office shows an increase of 300,723, as follows:—

	Foreign. No.	Inland. No.	Town. No.
1863 - -	1,029,227	- - 4,224,015	- - 409,597
1864 - -	1,069,387	- - 4,433,411	- - 460,764
Increase -	40,160	- - 209,396	- - 51,167

Total Increase - - -	300,723
Total, 1863 - - -	5,662,839
Total, 1864 - - -	5,963,562

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Newspapers. Packet and book parcels.

The number of newspapers posted in 1864 was 4,600,077, against 4,554,739 the year before.

The inland packet and book parcels show the following increase upon the previous year:—

1863 - - -	276,814
1864 - - -	287,540
Increase -	10,726

Revenue.

Cause of increase.

The revenue has increased from 57,742*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* in 1863 to 67,722*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.* in 1864. The increase is caused by the additional number of letters, and by the imposition of a postage charge during last nine months of the year on newspapers, previously conveyed free.

The expenditure in 1864 for inland postage was 88,695*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, and for steam postal communication *viâ* Suez, 20,912*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*

PART VIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Public Works.

24. The expenditure on public works and buildings during the year 1864, including loans, exceeded half a million of pounds sterling, tabulated as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Railways - - - - -	348,707	11	8
Electric Telegraphs and Stations - -	7,841	16	2
Roads and Bridges - - - -	145,834	4	4
Harbours and River Navigation, &c. -	80,830	9	5
Buildings—General - - -	10,528	19	2
Judicial, Police, &c. - - -	25,098	17	5
Batteries and Military - - -	1,617	6	1
Orphan School - - - - -	38	15	10
Almshouses - - - - - -	1,161	3	2
Medical - - - - - -	1,914	12	7
Miscellaneous - - - - -	6,920	13	0
	630,494	8	10
Minor Roads under Public Works Department -	23,459	16	3
Total -	653,954	5	1

The expenditure from loans was 446,708*l.*, viz., 348,707*l.* for railways, 7,800*l.* for electric telegraphs and stations, 7,272*l.* for bridges, 59,321*l.* for harbours and river navigation, and 23,158*l.* for buildings.

The expenditure under the Lands Department, for minor roads and bridges, could not be obtained.

The expenditure for furniture was 2,784*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

Meteorology.

25. The following table will afford a view of the year's observations taken at stations in their assumed positions:—

——	Newcastle.	Windsor.	Sydney.	Denilliquin.	Albury.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Cooma.	Armidale.
Height above the mean sea level (feet).	18	58	155	410	572	2,129	2,333	2,637	3,278
Distance from the coast (miles)	1	21	5	280	170	58	98	53	80
Temparature (in the shade, at 9 a.m.).	63·4	61·9	61·9	59·0	58·9	55·4	55·3	51·4	56·7
Highest temperature in the shade (for 24th, previous to 9 a.m.).	85·0	88·3	69·2	88·3	—	78·7	80·1	76·6	—
Lowest ditto (ditto)	48·0	37·9	55·1	—	34·4	29·2	27·0	29·6	—
Mean diurnal range of temperature (ditto).	17·7	23·7	14·1	—	—	23·2	29·9	23·7	—
Mean of maximum and minimum temperatures (ditto).	65·0	62·4	62·6	—	—	54·3	54·0	52·8	—
Mean height of barometer at 9 a.m.	30·089	30·045	30·044	30·040	30·054	30·028	30·008	30·117	29·972

	Newcastle.	Windsor.	Sydney.	Denili-quin.	Albury.	Goulburn.	Bathurst.	Cooma.	Armidale
Mean amount of humidity (0·100) at 9 a.m.	71·8	77·5	73·8	69·7	75·2	72·9	77·4	75·7	79·6
Rain fall (inches) - -	74·49	55·04	69·02	13·02	31·27	26·42	22·96	21·45	42·85
Ditto (days) - -	119	197	175	56	76	116	88	114	80
Prevailing direction of the wind at 9 a.m.	W.	S.W.	W.	S.	S.W. & N.N.E.	W.	W.	N.	E.
Mean amount of cloudy sky (0·10) at 9 a.m.	4·9	6·3	5·6	4·2	5·5	5·4	5·4	6·1	5·3
Mean maximum temperature in the sun (for 24th, previous to 9 a.m.).	—	107·1	110·5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mean minimum temperature on the grass (ditto).	—	45·1	51·5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Amount of evaporation in inches.	—	62·115	50·564	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mean amount of ozone (0·10), for 24th, previous to 9 a.m.	—	—	4·8	—	—	—	—	—	—

Real Estate.

26. In no year during the last decade has the amount of capital invested in real estate been so small, nor have the discharges of mortgages been so large, as in the year 1864.

The registrations during the last quinquennial period are appended.

Year.	Mortgages.		Discharges.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£		£
1860 - - -	1,240	994,230	462	310,751
1861 - - -	1,150	691,233	483	315,282
1862 - - -	1,103	682,693	495	371,983
1863 - - -	1,009	714,501	486	391,279
1864 - - -	964	628,426	581	418,527

Pastoral.

27. The amount of liens on wool in 1864 is in excess of any year during the last decennial period; whilst the mortgages on live stock are less than either of the five previous years. The amount of capital lent on pastoral securities during the period 1860 to 1864 will be seen by the following statement:—

Year.	Liens on Wool.	Live Stock.	
		Mortgages.	Discharges of Mortgages.
	£	£	£
1860 - - -	112,752	1,614,890	652,280
1861 - - -	178,797	1,120,384	533,126
1862 - - -	87,487	1,312,245	709,238
1863 - - -	220,450	1,503,413	881,222
1864 - - -	250,218	1,116,709	857,006

The mortgages on live stock during the five years were 6,667,641, and the discharges for the same period amounted 3,632,872, leaving an undischarged balance of 3,034,769 remaining on the register.

The number of deeds registered, exclusive of the registrations under the Real Property Act, was 4,923, being 12 less than the number in 1863.

Growing Crops.

28. There were 72 liens on growing crops in 1863, to the amount of 6,398*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, and in 1864, 105 liens, to the amount of 8,057*l.* 3*s.* 9½*d.*

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Real Property Act.

The following table will show the working of the Real Property Act (26 Vict., No. 9), from the date of its commencement, viz., 1 January 1863 :—

Year.	Number of Applications.	Area.			Total Value.
		Town and Suburban.	Country.	Total.	
		a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	£
1863 - - -	340	729 2 23	67,183 2 32	67,913 1 15	439,278
1864 - -	362	250 1 11½	31,588 3 27	31,839 0 38½	310,165
Increase -	22	—	—	—	—
Decrease -	—	479 1 12½	35,594 3 5	36,074 0 17½	129,113

Crown grants.

Of Crown grants registered under the Act there is a large increase upon the return of 1863, viz.,—

Year.	No. of Grants.	Area.	Value.	Assurance.
1863 - - -	268	31,752 2 9	36,406 9 2	75 2 1
1864 - - -	1,500	71,929 3 26¼	95,007 18 10	198 12 0
Increase -	1,232	40,177 1 17¼	58,601 9 8	123 9 11

Taking together the area applied to be brought under the Act and the area of Crown grants registered, we arrive at the following results :—

That whilst there is an increase of 4,097 1 0¾ acres, there is a falling off in the value to the amount of 70,511*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, as follows :—

	1863.		1864.	
	Acres.	Value.	Acres.	Value.
		s. d.		£ s. d.
Real Property - -	67,913 1 15	439,278 0 0	31,839 0 38½	310,165 0 0
Crown Grants registered - -	31,752 2 9	36,406 9 2	71,923 3 26¼	95,007 18 10
Total - - -	99,665 3 24	475,684 9 2	103,763 0 24¾	405,172 18 10
Increase - -	4,097 1 0¾	—	Decrease	70,511 10 4

Insolvencies.

29. The numbers of insolvents' schedules filed was 485; 464 voluntary, and 21 compulsory. This is an increase of 77 on the previous year.

On an average, 1 in every 809 of the population surrendered his estate; and in the former year, 1 in every 929 of the population.

The amount of liabilities, as also the amount of assets and the deficiency for the years 1863 and 1864, will be found as follows :—

Year.	Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1863 - - -	463,164 3 11	369,080 1 0	94,084 2 11
1864 - - -	475,454 11 8	297,787 8 1	177,667 3 7

The fees in insolvency, and paid at the Treasury, amounted to 1,761*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, an increase over the year 1863 of 199*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* NEW SOUTH WALES.

Publicans' Licences.

There were 2,088 licences issued to publicans, against 2,104 the year before, showing a decrease of 16.

Volunteer Corps.

30. The number of volunteers on the roll of the several companies on 31st December was 1,730, a falling off, compared with 1863, of 371 names.

The only companies that have kept up their strength were No. 5 Company, Paddington and Surry Hills Company, and the Hawkesbury Corps.

The Volunteer Naval Brigade (included in the above number) mustered 219 in 1863, and 201 in 1864. The decrease, instead of a large anticipated increase, is accounted for by many resigning their post on account of the stoppage on the 1st April of the pay of all the members, with the exception of the clerk and accountant. Naval brigade.

Political.

31. The number of registered electors in 57 electorates (exclusive of the three gold fields) was 98,621, that is, about 45· per cent. of the male population at the end of the year.

At the general election in the months of November and December 1864 and January the following year, the seats for 44 electorates were contested, returning 56 representatives, and having 80,415 registered voters. Only 43,371 exercised the franchise.

The remaining 13 electorates* uncontested numbered 18,206 registered voters.

The electors on the three gold fields vote upon the production of their mining or business licences, consequently they could not be classified with the "registered electors." The estimated number so qualified to vote was returned as 11,230; of this number only 940 availed themselves of the privilege. The western gold fields electorate was not contested.

Land Sales.

32. The extent of land sold otherwise than conditionally shows a falling off of 33,801 acres, of the value of 43,917*l.*, on the returns of the year 1863, viz.:—

Districts.	1863.		1864.	
	Acres.	Amount.	Acres.	Amount.
		£		£
Settled - - -	16,164	31,026	12,904	17,538
Pastoral - -	75,852	81,852	45,311	51,423
Totals -	92,016	112,878	58,215	68,961

The land sales during the year produced an average of 1*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* per acre, being 10*d.* per acre short of the average of the previous year.

The total amount actually received during the year on account of lands sold was 112,719*l.*, which is 15,501*l.*, or 12· per cent., below the receipts of 1863.

* Balranald, the Bogan, Carcoar, Eden, the Hawkesbury, the Hunter, Liverpool Plains, West Macquarie, East Maitland, the Murray, the Murrumbridgee, Newtown, Orange.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The following table will show the dealings in land for the year under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.

Description.	Area sold.	Average Price per Acre.	Total Amount of Sales.	Amount received.	Balance remaining unpaid.
	a. r. p.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sold at Auction—Town - -	402 0 37½	10 3 6	4,091 16 10	} 35,747 1 11	7,263 0 0
„ Suburban -	904 2 30½	3 14 6	3,368 18 1		
„ Country -	31,392 3 13	1 2 0	35,549 7 0		
Unconditionally sold by selection	12,388 1 34	0 19 11	12,379 15 6	12,379 15 6	—
Improved lots sold to owners of improvements.	9,670 1 20	1 5 6	*12,336 4 5	2,539 0 2	9,797 4 3
Proceeds of sales of unnecessary roads.	158 0 15	2 2 7	336 5 2	146 1 11	190 3 3
Sold under return of water reservation.	4 0 11	35 14 1	145 5 5	20 1 3	125 4 2
Specially sold at appraised price -	142 2 15	2 11 6	367 10 5	119 2 0	248 8 5
Proclaimed land sold at appraised price.	7 3 19	180 8 7	1,419 15 6	705 0 0	714 15 6
Sold by pre-emption - -	13,127 3 0	1 0 8	13,571 6 6	13,571 6 6	—
Sold conditionally -	165,616 3 0	1 0 0	165,616 15 0	41,404 3 9	†124,212 11 3
General Total -	233,815 2 35	—	249,182 19 10	106,631 13 0	142,551 6 10

* Total amount of appraised sales. † Payable in 1867.

33. From a pressure of business I am unable to enter more fully upon this work, and inquirers seeking further information are invited to the statistical tables themselves.

34. The usual statistical view of the progress of the Colony from the earliest periods precedes the volume.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THEO. JAS. JAQUES,
Registrar General.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of NEW SOUTH WALES for the YEARS 1855 to 1864 inclusive.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.	Schools. Number of Scholars.	for Committments Trial.	Convictions.	Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	Acres Number of under Crop.	Live Stock. Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Coal raised. Quantity.	Coal raised. Value.	Land Sales. Quantity.	Land Sales. Amount realized.	Year.
																tons.	£	acres.	£	
1855	277,579	10,344	2,765	4,022	476	27,243	—	526	147	255	171,100¼	158,159	1,858,407	8,602,499	68,091	137,076	89,082	127,952	270,636	1855
1856	[a]286,873	10,097	2,778	4,203	565	29,426	—	461	154	314	186,033½	168,929	2,023,418	7,736,323	105,998	189,960	117,906	167,753	245,555	1856
1857	305,487	12,501	2,902	4,846	550	29,236	—	395	157	284	184,513½	180,053	2,148,664	8,139,162	109,166	210,434	148,158	145,102	210,333	1857
1858	342,062	13,802	2,992	5,883	653	33,236	780	415	169	295	223,295½	200,713	2,110,604	7,581,762	92,843	216,397	162,162	169,214	240,633	1858
1859	[b]336,572	14,415	3,295	5,642	739	32,840	753	406	177	549	247,542¾	214,684	2,190,976	5,162,671	119,701	308,213	204,371	135,167	252,627	1859
1860	348,546	14,233	2,945	6,562	798	34,767	685	405	193	745	260,798	251,497	2,408,586	6,119,163	180,662	368,862	226,493	109,216	155,316	1860
1861	[a]358,278	14,681	3,222	5,343	849	37,874	820	437	184	788	297,575	233,220	2,271,923	5,615,054	146,091	342,067	218,820	189,936	222,594	1861
1862	367,495	15,434	3,326	6,524	925	42,211	879	514	181	859	302,138½	273,389	2,620,383	6,145,651	125,541	476,522	305,234	[c]67,292	216,988	1862
1863	378,934	15,679	3,314	6,653	976	46,810	887	497	180	1,768	307,035	262,554	2,032,522	7,790,969	135,899	433,889	236,230	[c]92,016	128,211	1863
1864	392,589	16,881	3,480	6,445	1,022	48,427	975	590	174	2,084	318,854	284,567	1,924,119	8,271,520	164,154	549,012	270,171	[c]58,216	68,961	1864

[a] The Census was taken in 1821, 2, 3, 5, 8, 33, 6; population as above.
2nd March, 1841, population 130,856
2nd March, 1846, „ 189,609
1st March, 1851, „ 187,243
1st March, 1856, „ 266,189
1st March, 1861, „ 350,860
The population from the year 1836 is estimated up to the end of each year.

[b] The reduction in the year 1859 was caused by the separation of Queensland from New South Wales.

[c] Exclusive of lands conditionally sold under the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861."

Price of land in 1825, 7*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* per acre.

The minimum price of land was 5*s.* per acre from 1832 to 1840; 12*s.* per acre 1840-42. (20*s.* in Port Philip, in 1841.) 20*s.* per acre from 1843 to present time.

Number of acres alienated to the end of 1864, (exclusive of land conditionally selected in the Old Settled Districts)—7,822,701 acres.

Number of acres unalienated, about - - - - - - - - - - - - 93 929,623 acres.

In 1822, 3, 4, 5, the accounts were kept in Spanish dollars and British money; generally in Spanish dollars.

Transportation ceased in 1840.

The Return of the Revenue and Expenditure previous to 1850 cannot be accurately ascertained. In addition to the above Expenditure, the Imperial Government paid large sums for the maintenance of convicts and military.

Gold discovered in May 1851.

The Loans Expenditure previous to 1853 cannot be shown.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of NEW SOUTH WALES—*continued.*

YEAR.	Shipping. Inwards. Number of Vessels.	Shipping. Inwards. Tonnage.	Shipping. Outwards. Number of Vessels.	Shipping. Outwards. Tonnage.	Exports, the Produce of the Colony.[a] Wool. Quantity.	Wool. Value.	Tallow. Quantity.	Tallow. Value.	Oil, &c., Value.	Gold. Quantity.	Gold. Value.	Coal. Quantity.	Coal. Value.	Value of Total Imports.[a]	Value of Total Exports.[a]	Revenue. General.	Revenue. Loans.	Expenditure. Ordinary.	Expenditure. Loans.	YEAR.
					lbs.	£	cwt.	£	£	ozs.	£	tons.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1855	1,152	353,323	1,185	362,482	17,671,684	1,078,017	57,325	123,255	20,770	64,384	209,250	61,484	58,893	4,668,519	2,884,130	800,989	859,721	886,724	788,300	1855
1856	1,143	321,679	1,219	336,113	19,200,341	1,303,070	77,314	137,202	25,355	42,463	138,007	84,086	65,730	5,460,971	3,430,880	1,130,014	856,539	1,146,468	688,666	1856
1857	1,100	351,413	1,204	377,147	17,044,201	1,275,067	37,574	82,134	32,306	253,564	983,850	96,457	45,960	6,729,408	4,011,952	1,185,562	345,575	1,104,995	438,333	1857
1858	1,141	348,984	1,254	366,825	13,553,835	1,126,486	29,085	53,186	1,450	254,907	994,960	113,649	89,200	6,059,366	4,186,277	1,379,675	76,776	1,209,796	360,770	1858
1859	1,250	363,121	1,299	387,015	16,988,016	1,458,005	17,376	37,275	532	435,995	1,698,078	173,935	132,984	6,597,053	4,768,049	1,522,668	816,822	1,425,028	433,138	1859
1860	1,424	427,835	1,438	431,484	12,809,362	1,123,699	13,647	28,794	136	483,012	1,876,049	233,877	183,761	7,519,285	5,072,020	1,319,779	560,729	1,321,724	736,231	1860
1861	1,327	366,236	1,391	379,460	12,745,891	1,396,426	60,638	60,816	—	488,293	1,890,908	207,780	160,965	6,391,555	5,594,839	1,448,610	394,457	1,540,005	433,224	1861
1862	1,493	454,837	1,568	467,356	13,482,139	1,283,818	71,281	104,030	—	699,566	2,715,037	308,782	245,422	9,334,645	7,102,562	1,628,885	644,285	1,608,810	526,708	1862
1863	1,494	479,827	1,603	511,373	14,791,849	1,262,274	17,709	31,221	—	605,722	2,361,949	298,038	220,181	8,319,576	6,936,839	1,550,047	649,116	2,064,299	537,795	1863
1864	1,849	607,168	1,842	647,057	18,414,530	1,628,493	61,056	100,654	—	758,109	2,952,471	372,466	212,488	9,836,042	8,117,217	[b]1,693,792	[c] 290,983	1,862,245[c]	464,656	1864

[a] Exclusive of the Overland traffic.
[b] Includes 270,543*l.* proceeds of Treasury Bills, issued under the Act of Council, 27th Vict., No. 8, to cover deficit of 1863 and previous years.
[c] The Revenue and Expenditure columns include "Church and School Lands Revenue," "Police Reward Fund," "Police Superannuation Fund," and Superannuation Fund, 27th Vict., No. 11.

QUEENSLAND.

QUEENSLAND.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir GEORGE F. BOWEN, G.C.M.G., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 36.)

Government House, Brisbane, Queensland,
18 June 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith six copies of the Statistical Register or "Blue Book" of the Colony of Queensland for the year 1864.

2. The annual report of the Registrar-General prefixed to the statistical tables is so full and yet so concise, that it appears necessary for me only to solicit attention to a few of the more important and salient points.

3. The tabulated statements of the report will be found to exhibit at one view a synopsis of the statistics of Queensland during the first five years (1860 to 1864, both inclusive) of the political existence of this Colony, also the annual centesimal increases in population, agriculture, live stock, trade, revenue, and expenditure.

4. It will be seen that, during the period referred to, the centesimal increase has been as follows:—

In our population	- - - -	156·30
„ shipping (inwards and outwards)	-	110·43
„ trade (including exports and imports)	-	177·76
„ revenue	- - - -	193·52

The other chief elements of material prosperity have advanced in similar proportions. In other words, they have nearly doubled in the last three years, and nearly trebled in the last five years.

5. Moreover it will be seen that the number of schools has increased by 108·06, and of scholars by 129·09 per cent. It is very satisfactory to observe that the provision for the education of the people keeps better pace with its rapid increase in numbers than could well have been anticipated under the present social condition of Queensland, *i. e.* with so small an European population thinly scattered over a territory more than five times larger than the area of the United Kingdom.

6. The Registrar-General remarks, that "Gold dust, the produce of Queensland "gold-fields, appears for the first time in the exports of the year 1864 in sufficient "quantity to attract attention. The quantity exported was 22,037 ozs. 5 dwts. 22 grs., "and its estimated value is 83,292*l.*" Three gold-fields have already been proclaimed

QUEENSLAND.

in Queensland; viz. one near Clermont, on the Peak Downs, another at Talgai, on the Darling Downs, and a third near Gladstone, in the district of Port Curtis. In addition to the alluvial "diggings," quartz reefs have been discovered on all these fields, and promise to afford a rich profit to the increasing number, enterprise, and capital of the miners.

7. During 1864, the export of cotton from the recently formed plantations in Queensland amounted to 38,730 lbs., valued at 4,186*l*. It will be recollected that during the first sixty years of the present century, the export trade in cotton from America grew up from even a smaller beginning to an amount valued at forty millions of pounds sterling, and that so eminently competent a judge as Mr. Bazley (M.P. for Manchester) has declared that, with a sufficient supply of labour, "Queensland can grow the best quality "of cotton in the whole world, and in quantity beyond the present consumption of all "countries." In fact, it has been ascertained that the cotton plantations in North America before 1861 covered, in the aggregate, an area of not more than four millions of acres, that is, an area about equivalent to that of Yorkshire. Now along the sea-board and the banks of the navigable rivers in Queensland, there is a territory exceeding twenty Yorkshires, and well suited for the cultivation of cotton. However, as I have already pointed out in a long series of despatches on this subject, the capital of the colonists is chiefly invested in the growth, not of cotton but of wool, and the manufacturers of England must apply some portion of their own money, skill, and enterprise if they wish to see developed on an extensive scale the proved capabilities of the soil and climate of Queensland for the production of their raw material.

8. It is further to be observed that during 1864, sugar plantations were, for the first time, formed in Queensland. The sugar-cane had, however, been previously grown in gardens with great success, as I reported so far back as in my despatch of January 6, 1860, No. 12. Experienced planters from the Mauritius and elsewhere have recently arrived here, and are sanguine that Queensland will ere long take the place of the last-named Colony in supplying the Australian sugar market.

9. The trade of Queensland for 1864 (including imports and exports) is valued at 3,515,008*l*. The imports were at the rate of 33*l*. 8*s*. 8½*d*. per head of the mean population of the year. It is calculated that about two-thirds of these imports came directly or indirectly (*i. e.* through Sydney and other ports in the Australian Colonies) from the United Kingdom. In other words, the people of Queensland take at present British manufactures and other produce of Great Britain to the amount of about 22*l*. sterling per head; a far larger proportion than that taken by any other community in the world. It should always be remembered, moreover, in considering this point, that Queensland is the only British Dependancy which was ever founded and organized without any expense to the mother country. Queensland also provides, at a heavy cost to the Colonial Treasury, for the protection of the inland settlers against the aborigines, a service which has always been performed chiefly at the cost of the Imperial Treasury in the two other Colonies (the Cape and New Zealand) where the aborigines are numerous and hostile. This fact is a matter of honest pride to myself, to my constitutional advisers, and to the Colonial Parliament.

10. The revenue for 1864 (inclusive of the territorial revenue, but exclusive of a further sum of 21,742*l*. 8*s*. 4*d*. placed to the credit of the Police Superannuation and Reserve funds, and other "Special Receipts,") was 502,456*l*. 9*s*. 7*d*. In 1863, it was 390,823*l*. 0*s*. 10*d*. The increase of the revenue in 1864, as compared with the previous year, is therefore 111,633*l*. 8*s*. 9*d*., or, if calculated centesimally, is at the rate of 28·56 per cent. Compared with the mean population of the year, the revenue is at the rate of 7*l*. 8*s*. 1¾*d*. per head.

11. The eighty-two tables of the Statistical Register, and the remarks upon them in the Registrar-General's report, contain much valuable information on other points, which combine to prove the rapidly increasing but solid prosperity of Queensland.

12. My space will permit me to refer further only to the progress of colonization. The year 1864 is remarkable for the successful establishment of the new settlements of Cardwell in the important and central position and on the good harbour of Rockingham Bay, and of Somerset, at Port Albany, near Cape York, which later township is expected to become one day the Singapore of Australia, as commanding the navigation of so great a highway of commerce as Torres Straits. Five years ago there was no settlement on the sea-board of Queensland to the north of Rockhampton and Keppel Bay. Since that period, a line of seaports has been surveyed, settled, opened for trade, and provided with police magistrates, harbour masters, and the other necessary public officers, from Keppel Bay to Cape York, a distance of above 1,000 miles, viz., at Waverley, in Broad Sound; at Mackay, on the river Pioneer; at Bowen, in Port Denison; at the mouth of the river

Burdekin, in Upstart Bay; at Cleveland Bay; at Cardwell, in Rockingham Bay, and at Somerset, near Cape York. More recently still, a township has been founded near the mouth of the river Albert, at the head of the Gulf of Carpentaria, and named Burketown, in honour of the gallant but unfortunate explorer Burke, who was the first to cross the Australian continent from south to north.

13. Again, on the first erection of Queensland into a separate Colony, inland colonization had scarcely advanced beyond the Darling Downs to the west, and beyond Rockhampton to the north of Brisbane. *Now*, after the lapse of little more than five years, there are already pastoral stations beyond the river Paroo (in about the 144th meridian of eastern longitude,) more than 700 miles to the west of Brisbane, and on the "Plains of Promise" (so named by Captain Stokes, R.N., of H.M.S. surveying ship "Beagle,") and on the banks of the rivers Flinders, Albert, and Nicholson, flowing into the Gulf of Carpentaria, more than 800 miles to the north-west of Rockhampton. All the vast intervening area, equal to more than double the area of the United Kingdom, has been thoroughly explored and occupied during the last five years, and is already dotted with pastoral stations, while flourishing townships are springing up (as we have just seen) at the best harbours on the sea-board, and along the lines of the principal roads in the interior.

14. An examination of the latest edition of a good map of Australia (such as that published in 1864 by Stanford, of Charing Cross) would facilitate the realization of the facts and distances referred to in this despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. BOWEN.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE STATISTICAL REGISTER FOR 1864.

To the Honourable ROBERT GEORGE WYNDHAM HERBERT, Esq., Colonial Secretary, &c., &c.

SIR, Registrar-General's Office, Brisbane, 1st June 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you, for presentation to Parliament, "the Statistical Register of the Colony of Queensland," and my report thereon, for the year ending 31st December 1864.

Parliamentary Business.

The Second Session of the Second Parliament of Queensland was opened by his Excellency the Governor on the 26th April 1864, and was prorogued by his Excellency on the 13th September following. During this session, seven Public Bills were originated in the Legislative Council, of which two received his Excellency the Governor's assent, and one was by him reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure; the remaining four Bills were dropped, or otherwise disposed of. In the Legislative Assembly, 44 Bills were originated, of which 26 received his Excellency's assent, the remaining 18 being variously disposed of. At page 20 of the Register will be found an alphabetical register of the above Bills, showing in detail, in which House, and by whom each was originated, and in what manner it was disposed of. The Legislative Assembly met on 44 days, and sat for a daily average of nearly five hours and four minutes. For a detailed statement of the sessional business of this House, *vide* page 21 of the Register.

Population.

ESTIMATED POPULATION of QUEENSLAND on 31st December 1864.

Males.	Females.	Persons.
45,516	28,520	74,036

Only one year having passed since a census of the population was taken, on the 1st January 1864, the above estimate, founded on the arrivals and departures by sea, and on the registered births and deaths, may be considered as pretty near the truth; the real number of the population is probably from one half to one per cent. greater. I draw this conclusion, from the knowledge that many persons have entered the Colony by land, of whom no account can be taken, and also from believing that births take place in out of the way localities which are not registered; some deaths, also, doubtless escape regis-

QUEENSLAND.

tration, but not so frequently as in the case of births. I think that, in round numbers the population on the last day of 1864 may be stated at 75,000.

QUARTERLY RETURN of ADDITIONS to the POPULATION, made during the Year 1864.

	Males.	Females	Persons.
First Quarter.			
Excess of births over deaths	30	156	186
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration	1,696	905	2,601
Increase during first quarter	1,726	1,061	2,787
Second Quarter.			
Excess of births over deaths	142	233	375
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration	1,682	700	2,382
Increase during second quarter	1,824	933	2,757
Increase during six months	3,550	1,994	5,544
Third Quarter.			
Excess of births over deaths	224	291	515
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration	2,691	1,288	3,979
Increase during third quarter	2,915	1,579	4,494
Increase during nine months	6,465	3,573	10,038
Fourth Quarter.			
Excess of births over deaths	176	185	361
Increase from excess of immigration over emigration	1,296	701	1,997
Increase during fourth quarter	1,472	886	2,358
Total increase during 1864	7,937	4,459	12,396
Population on 31st December 1863, as per census	37,579	24,061	61,640
Estimated population on 31st December 1864	45,516	28,520	74,036

From the above table, it appears that the population on the 31st December 1864 is greater than the population on the 31st December 1863 by the addition of 12,396 persons, this increase being at the rate of 20·11 per cent. On examination, it appears that the addition of 1,437 persons is attributable to the excess of births over deaths; of 7,180 persons, to European immigration; and of 3,779 persons, to other arrivals and departures by sea, principally from the other Australian Colonies.

The following table affords perhaps the best data from which to estimate the distribution of the annual additions to our population; the calculation is founded on the supposition that the total number of names annually enrolled in the register books bears each year nearly the same proportion to the population of that year, and that therefore the centesimal increase of the one, in any district, affords the means of estimating the centesimal increase of the other in that district. This supposition, particularly when the estimated increase in population in each district has been corrected to suit the different rates of increase in the year's registrations and the year's population, is not far from the truth. The population, estimated in the usual manner, is 74,039, and by this method is 75,049, the latter agreeing almost exactly with my remarks.

Registration District.	Population on 31st December 1863, as per Census.	Increase in the number of names registered in 1864.	Centesimal increase of names registered in 1864.	Centesimal increase of population assumed at 3·44 under that of names registered in 1864.	Approximate estimate of population on 31st Dec. 1864.	
Brisbane	20,357	380	19·01	15·57	23,557	Giving a population of 75,049
Ipswich	9,560	204	28·33	24·89	11,939	
Rockhampton	5,052	53	7·81	4·37	5,273	
Drayton	4,281	99	28·86	25·42	5,369	
Warwick	3,981	92	32·97	29·53	5,157	
Maryborough	2,964	82	28·18	25 74	3,727	
Kennedy*	1,851	115	182·53	179·09	5,166	
All other districts	13,594	162	12·76	9·32	14,861	
Total	61,640	1,187	23·55	20·11	74,036	

* Including Bowen, Cardwell, and Mackay.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of BIRTHS in the Years 1863 and 1864; also the PROPORTION of FEMALES to MALES born in each Year.

District.	1863.			1864.			Total Increase in the latter Year.	Increase per cent. in the latter Year.	Females born to every 100 Males born in 1863.	Females born to every 100 Males born in 1864.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.				
Banana - - -	4	6	10	9	12	21	11	110·00	150·00	133·33
Brisbane - - -	383	409	792	569	538	1,107	315	39·77	106·79	94·55
Broad Sound - -	3	2	5	4	4	8	3	60·00	66·67	100·00
Condamine - -	17	17	34	7	5	12	-22	-64·71	100·00	71·43
Dalby - - -	51	39	90	46	39	85	-5	-5·56	76·47	84·78
Drayton - - -	93	92	185	118	124	242	57	30·81	98·92	105·08
Gayndah - - -	36	44	80	46	43	89	9	11·25	122·22	93·48
Goondiwindi - -	5	7	12	11	6	17	5	41·67	140·00	54·55
Ipswich - - -	205	191	396	229	201	430	34	8·59	93·17	87·77
Kennedy * - -	11	7	18	21	29	50	32	177·78	63·64	138·10
Mount Abundance -	4	9	13	11	7	18	5	38·46	225·00	63·64
Nanango - - -	8	6	14	7	9	16	2	14·29	75·00	128·57
Peak Downs - -	2	2	4	4	7	11	7	175·00	100·00	175·00
Port Curtis - -	9	12	21	19	15	34	13	61·90	133·33	78·95
Princhester - -	1	—	1	1	1	2	1	100·00	Nil.	100·00
Rockhampton - -	102	117	219	145	145	290	71	32·42	114·71	100·00
Springsure - -	2	2	4	2	7	9	5	125·00	100·00	350·00
Surat † - - -	5	7	12	13	11	24	12	100·00	140·00	84·62
Taroom - - -	16	13	29	23	16	39	10	34·48	81·25	69·57
Warwick - - -	80	75	155	93	110	203	48	30·97	93·75	118·28
Wide Bay - -	57	70	127	94	82	176	49	38·58	122·81	87·23
Total - -	1,094	1,127	2,221	1,472	1,411	2,883	662	29·81	103·02	95·86

TABLE showing the NUMBER of DEATHS in the Years 1863 and 1864; also the PROPORTION of FEMALES to Males who died in each Year.

District.	1863.			1864.			Total Increase in the latter Year.	Increase per cent. in the latter Year.	Number of Deaths of Females to every 100 Deaths of Males in 1863.	Number of Deaths of Females to every 100 Deaths of Males in 1864.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.				
Banana - - -	6	3	9	5	2	7	-2	-22·22	50·00	40·00
Brisbane - - -	273	230	503	319	245	564	61	12·13	84·25	76·80
Broad Sound - -	4	1	5	8	2	10	5	100·00	25·00	25·00
Condamine - -	7	4	11	10	7	17	6	54·55	57·14	70·00
Dalby - - -	26	16	42	22	6	28	-14	-33·33	61·54	27·27
Drayton - - -	53	29	82	50	28	78	-4	-4·88	54·72	56·00
Gayndah - - -	30	7	37	46	9	55	18	48·65	23·33	19·57
Goondiwindi - -	7	4	11	3	1	4	-7	-63·64	57·14	33·33
Ipswich - - -	86	60	146	120	98	218	72	49·32	69·77	81·67
Kennedy * - - -	16	3	19	29	9	38	19	100·00	18·75	31·03
Mount Abundance -	7	—	7	19	3	22	15	214·29	—	15·79
Nanango - - -	3	2	5	4	2	6	1	20·00	66·67	50·00
Peak Downs - -	6	1	7	24	4	28	21	300·00	16·67	16·67
Port Curtis - -	9	2	11	7	8	15	4	36·36	22·22	114·29
Princhester - -	2	—	2	5	1	6	4	200·00	—	20·00
Rockhampton - -	145	69	214	102	56	158	-56	-26·17	47·59	54·90
Springsure - -	7	2	9	9	4	13	41	44·44	28·57	44·44
Surat † - - -	9	2	11	7	4	11	Nil.	Nil.	22·22	57·14
Taroom - - -	18	8	26	11	2	13	-13	-50·00	44·44	18·18
Warwick - - -	48	14	62	50	26	76	14	22·58	29·17	52·00
Wide Bay - -	36	20	56	50	29	79	23	41·07	44·12	58·00
Total - -	798	477	1,275	900	546	1,446	171	13·41	59·77	60·67

* Including also the new registration districts of Cardwell and Mackay.
† Including also the new registration district of St. George.

QUEENSLAND.

TABLE comparing the DEATHS of the Year 1864 with the BIRTHS of the same Year.

District.	Deaths in 1864.	Births in 1864.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	Centisimal Increase of Births in 1864 over those in 1863.	Centesimal Increase of Deaths in 1864 over those in 1863.	Deaths have centesimally increased faster than Births.
Banana - - -	7	21	14	110·00	22·22	–87·78
Brisbane - - - -	564	1,107	543	39·77	12·13	–27·64
Broad Sound - - -	10	8	–2	60·00	100·00	40·00
Condamine - - - -	17	12	–5	–64·71	54·55	119·26
Dalby - - - -	28	85	57	–5·56	–33·33	–27·77
Drayton - - - -	78	242	164	30·81	–4·88	–35·69
Gayndah - - - -	55	89	34	11·25	48·65	37·40
Goondiwindi - - -	4	17	13	41·67	–63·64	–105·31
Ipswich - - - -	218	430	212	8·59	49·32	40·73
Kennedy * - - -	38	50	12	177·78	100·00	–77·78
Mount Abundance - - -	22	18	–4	38·46	214·29	175·83
Nanango - - - -	6	16	10	14·29	20·00	5·71
Peak Downs - - -	28	11	–17	175·00	300·00	125·00
Port Curtis - - -	15	34	19	61·90	36·36	–25·54
Princhester - - -	6	2	–4	100·00	200·00	100·00
Rockhampton - - -	158	290	132	32·42	–26·17	–58·59
Springsure - - -	13	9	–4	125·00	44·44	–80·56
Surat † - - -	11	24	13	100·00	Nil.	—
Taroom - - - -	13	39	26	34·48	–50·00	–84·48
Warwick - - - -	76	203	127	30·97	22·58	–8·39
Wide Bay - - - -	79	176	97	38·58	41·07	2·49
Total - - - -	1,446	2,883	1,437	29·81	13·41	–16·40

* Including also the new registration districts of Cardwell and Mackay.
† Including also the new registration district of St. George.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of DEATHS of CHILDREN under Five years of age, registered in the Years 1863 and 1864.

District.	1863.			1864.			Increase in the Deaths of Children below Two Years of age.	Increase in the Deaths of Children Two and under Five Years of age.	Total Increase in the Deaths of Children below Five Years of age.
	Below Two Years.	Two and under Five Years.	Total below Five Years.	Below Two Years.	Two and under Five Years.	Total below Five Years.			
Bowen, Cardwell, and Mackay	4	2	6	6	2	8	2	—	2
Brisbane - - -	232	51	283	230	55	285	–2	4	2
Dalby - - -	17	2	19	7	2	9	–10	—	–10
Drayton and Toowoomba -	26	13	39	29	2	31	3	–11	–8
Ipswich - - -	62	18	80	89	20	109	27	2	29
Port Curtis - - -	2	2	4	5	—	5	3	–2	1
Rockhampton - - -	71	30	101	57	10	67	–14	–20	–34
Warwick - - -	18	7	25	24	9	33	6	2	8
Wide Bay - - -	20	8	28	32	6	38	12	–2	10
Condamine, Goondiwindi, Mount Abundance, St. George, Surat - -	6	3	9	9	4	13	3	1	4
Banana, Broad Sound, Peak Downs, Princhester, Springsure, and Taroom	18	2	20	16	4	20	–2	2	—
Gayndah and Nanango -	12	2	14	16	5	21	4	3	7
Total - - -	488	140	628	520	119	639	32	–21	11

TABLE showing the NUMBER of MARRIAGES celebrated in each of the Years 1863 and 1864.

District and Year.	Church of England.	Church of Rome.	Presbyterian.	Wesleyan Methodist.	Primitive Methodist.	United Methodist Free Churches.	Congregational.	Baptist.	Lutheran.	Registration Act.	Total, 1863.	Total, 1864.
Banana - 1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Banana - 1864	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	4
Brisbane - 1863	70	70	82	22	5	7	23	20	22	31	352	—
Brisbane - 1864	71	79	83	24	13	12	9	9	28	26	—	354
Broad Sound - 1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broad Sound - 1864	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Condamine - 1863	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	5	—
Condamine - 1864	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	6
Dalby - 1863	16	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	26	—
Dalby - 1864	10	7	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	4	—	26
Drayton and Toowoomba - 1863	7	9	—	4	—	—	12	—	6	—	38	—
Drayton and Toowoomba - 1864	6	16	3	8	—	—	15	—	9	4	—	61
Gayndah - 1863	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	13	—	2	19	—
Gayndah - 1864	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	17	—	6	—	28
Goondiwindi - 1863	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—
Goondiwindi - 1864	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	4
Ipswich - 1863	20	33	4	17	—	—	1	—	3	11	89	—
Ipswich - 1864	18	50	20	23	—	—	5	7	1	14	—	138
Kennedy * - 1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	13	—
Kennedy * - 1864	2	6	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	45
Maryborough - 1863	7	15	14	—	—	—	—	7	—	11	54	—
Maryborough - 1864	8	15	10	10	—	—	—	13	1	2	—	59
Mount Abundance - 1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—
Mount Abundance - 1864	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	11
Nanango - 1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nanango - 1864	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Peak Downs - 1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peak Downs - 1864	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Port Curtis - 1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—
Port Curtis - 1864	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	9
Princhester - 1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Princhester - 1864	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Rockhampton - 1863	18	24	59	—	—	—	16	—	—	6	123	—
Rockhampton - 1864	14	43	51	—	15	—	14	1	1	3	—	142
Springsure - 1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Springsure - 1864	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surat † - 1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—
Surat † - 1864	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	6
Taroom - 1863	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	7	—
Taroom - 1864	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6
Warwick - 1863	10	8	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	31	—
Warwick - 1864	18	11	11	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	46
Total - 1863	153	166	171	43	5	7	52	40	31	106	774	—
Total - 1864	154	237	194	67	28	12	48	48	40	123	—	951

* Including also the new registration districts of Cardwell and Mackay.
† Including also the new registration district of St. George.

It has been already shown that 12,396 persons have been added to the population during the year 1864, the centesimal rate of increase during that year being 20·11 per cent.; it further appears from the foregoing tables that during the same period of time the centesimal rate of increase in births has been 29·81, and in deaths 13·41. While, therefore, births have increased nearly 10 per cent. faster than the population, deaths are, in proportion to the population, less numerous by nearly 7 per cent. Analyzing the deaths, it is with pleasure that I have to draw attention to the diminution which has taken place in the infantine mortality; it appears that while deaths of all ages have increased 13·41 per cent., the deaths of children under two years of age have increased at the rate of only 6·56 per cent.; a considerable reduction is also observable in the deaths of children between the ages of two and five years. Comparing the deaths of children with the total number of deaths in the Colony, it will be found that in 1863 the deaths of children under two years of age were in the proportion of 38·27 per cent. to the total deaths; and in 1864, were in the proportion of 35·96 to the total deaths of the Colony. The result of the above calculation is, that the total deaths have diminished considerably in proportion to the population, and that the proportional rate of infantine mortality has diminished still more, while, on the other hand, births have increased more rapidly than the population.

The last point to which my space will let me draw attention, is the proportion that the sexes bear to each other. On the 31st December 1863, there were in the Colony 64·03 females to each 100 males; on the 31st December 1864, there were only 62·66 females to each 100 males;—this increase in the disproportion of the sexes appears to arise from the small proportionate number of females who come to Queensland from the other Australian Colonies, and also to the small number who are introduced under the land

QUEENSLAND.

order system of immigration. The following is the actual proportion of females who have, in different ways, been added to the population during the last year :—

Intercolonial arrivals and departures - - -	25·76 females to each	100 males.
Private immigrant ships - - - -	58·36 ditto	100 ditto.
Ships chartered by Emigration Commissioners -	80·11 ditto	100 ditto.
Excess of births over deaths - - -	151·40 ditto	100 ditto.

The two last items form such a small portion of the total additions to the population, that the larger proportion of females exercises very little influence on the general proportion of the sexes.

Immigration.

A RETURN of the NUMBER and SEX of IMMIGRANTS from the UNITED KINGDOM or from EUROPE landed in QUEENSLAND in the Year 1864.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.	Equal to Statute Adults.
Landed from ships chartered by Her Majesty's Emigration Comimssioners - - - - - -	1,267	1,015	2,282	1,947
Landed from private merchant ships - - -	3,093	1,805	4,898	—
Total immigrants landed - - -	4,360	2,820	7,180	—

The European immigration during the past year has not been on so extensive a scale as in the year 1863, in which year the total arrivals from Europe were 10,116. This falling off is attributable most likely to the temporary absence from the United Kingdom of the Immigration Agent, sent there by this Colony, and the result is that a great scarcity of labour exists in many of the country districts.

There appears, moreover, to be a considerable falling off in the amount received by the several immigration agents throughout the Colony, for the introduction of immigrants under the remittance regulations; in 1863 the net receipts amounted to 10,351*l.* 15*s.*; in 1864 it fell to 4,911*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*

The following table of arrivals and departures by sea from all parts beyond the Colony distinguishes the sexes, and divides the ages into those above or below fourteen years, and also gives the particular port in Queensland of arrival or departure :—

TABLE of ARRIVALS and DEPARTURES.

1864.	Arrivals.										Departures.									Excess of Arrivals over Departures.
—	Brisbane.	Broad Sound.	Cardwell.	Mackay.	Maryborough.	Port Albany.	Port Curtis.	Port Denison.	Rockhampton.	Total Arrivals.	Brisbane.	Broad Sound.	Cardwell.	Mackay.	Maryborough.	Port Albany.	Port Curtis.	Port Denison.	Rockhampton.	Total Departures.	
Males above 14 - -	7,873	—	—	—	503	—	90	177	2,650	11,293	3,933	—	—	—	23	—	17	47	795	4,815	6,478
Males under 14 - -	808	—	—	—	59	—	5	27	99	998	80	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	27	111	887
Total males - -	8,681	—	—	—	562	—	95	204	2,749	12,291	4,013	—	—	—	24	—	18	49	822	4,926	7,365
Females above 14 - -	2,874	—	—	—	257	—	21	191	496	3,839	812	—	—	—	3	—	4	8	145	972	2,867
Females under 14 - -	691	—	—	—	55	—	13	22	98	879	118	—	—	—	2	—	2	3	27	152	727
Total Females - -	3,565	—	—	—	312	—	34	213	594	4,718	930	—	—	—	5	—	6	11	172	1,124	3,594
Total Persons - -	12,246	—	—	—	874	—	129	417	3,343	17,009	4,943	—	—	—	29	—	24	60	994	6,050	10,959

The disparity in the sexes, shown in the above tables, has been already alluded to under the head "Population."

The total number of ships expressly employed to convey emigrants to Queensland, which arrived during the past year, was 21,—seven of these having been despatched by the Emigration Commissioners, and chartered at an average rate of 14*l.* 4*s.* 2½*d.* per head per statute adult, and the remaining 14 being ships employed by private firms to carry immigrants under the Assisted Immigration Regulations, as well as under the Land Order System. The per-centage of deaths on board the ships chartered by Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners was 1·56 to each 100 emigrants who went on board ship. Omissions in the returns furnished from the Immigration Department prevent a similar calculation from being made touching the private emigrant ships.

Education.

Comparing the returns furnished by the Board of General Education of the primary schools under its supervision, for the two years 1863 and 1864, it appears that the number of its schools has risen from 17 in the former, to 24 in the latter year; that the total daily average of the attendance of pupils has increased from 1,593·2 in the former, to 2,171·5 in the latter year, the centesimal increase, 36·29 per cent., being greater than the increase in the population; and that the total expenditure for rent and salaries has risen from 3,787*l.* 16*s.* in 1863, to 4,673*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* in 1864, the centesimal increase being 20·75 per cent.; the expenditure has therefore diminished in proportion to the number of average attendances of scholars.

The return of private schools also shows a satisfactory increase, the number of schools having increased from 55 in 1863, to 65 in 1864, and the number of scholars from 2,248 in the former, to 2,408 in the latter year. The above schools, both private and general educational, are principally situated in or near to the larger towns of the Colony; and many parts of the country, including 12 entire police districts, are quite unprovided with means of education. It is, unfortunately, in those more remote portions of the Colony, where the difficulty and expense of maintaining schools is the greatest, that means of education are more especially required to counteract in some measure the freedom from all restraint, social or moral, and the utter neglect and ignorance of any religion, in which the children of the labouring classes are allowed to grow up to man's estate.

Crime.

RETURN OF PERSONS TRIED, ACQUITTED, or CONVICTED before the CENTRAL CRIMINAL or CIRCUIT COURTS, in the Year 1864.

	Tried.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Remarks.
Murder - - - - -	8	4	4	The Central Criminal Court holds four sittings in the year at Brisbane. The Circuit Courts sit at Ipswich four times in the year; at Toowoomba twice in the year; at Maryborough twice in the year; at Rockhampton twice in the year.
Other offences against the person - -	20	8	12	
All other offences - - - -	66	21	45	
Total, 1864 - - -	94	33	61	
Total, 1863 - - - -	91	35	56	

RETURN of PERSONS taken into CUSTODY, COMMITTED for TRIAL, CONVICTED SUMMARILY, DISCHARGED by the Courts of Petty Sessions throughout theCo lony, in the Year 1864.

—	Taken into Custody.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted Summarily.	Discharged.	Remarks.
For offences against person - -	789	35	574	180	There are 28 courts of Petty Sessions in the Colony, exclusive of four courts presided over by the Water Police Magistrates.
For offences against property -	611	142	248	221	
For drunkenness - - -	2,104	—	1,735	369	
For vagrancy - - -	374	—	267	107	
Total, 1864 - - -	3,878	177	2,824	877	
Total, 1863 - - -	2,938	131	1,940	867	

If a comparison be made between the crime tables of the two years 1863 and 1864, it will be found that the number of persons dealt with by the Central Criminal or Circuit Courts, in each of these years, is nearly the same, and that, therefore, having regard to the increased population of the latter year, there is a decided decrease in the proportion of persons tried for crimes of a serious nature. This decrease does not appear to arise from any diminution in the number of persons committed for trial by the Courts of Petty Sessions, but to be occasioned by the small proportion of those committed who are finally required to stand their trial, the latter being in the proportion of 53·16 to 100 of the former, only a little more than one-half, and even of this small proportion of persons tried, only 64·89 per cent. were convicted. The proportion which the number of persons finally convicted bears to the number committed to take their trials is 34·46 of the former to each 100 of the latter, a little more than one-third.

QUEENSLAND.

A RETURN of the NUMBER of CRIMINAL TRIALS in each Year from the Foundation of the Colony.

YEAR.	Acquitted.	Guilty.	Total Tried.	Per-centage of Population Tried.	Per-centage of Population Guilty.
1859 - - - -	22	35	57	0·23	0·14
1860 - - - -	11	30	41	0·14	0·10
1861 - - - -	19	24	43	0·13	0·07
1862 - - - -	32	23	55	0·12	0·05
1863 - - - -	35	56	91	0·17	0·11
1864 - - - -	33	61	94	0·14	0·05

The number of persons taken into custody by the police, and dealt with by the Courts of Petty Sessions, seems to have increased faster in proportion than the average population of the year. In 1863, the former were in the proportion of 5·44 to each 100 of the latter; in 1864, the proportion was 5·73. This may probably be explained to a certain extent by greater efficiency in the police, but unquestionably is in a far greater degree attributable to the number of undesirable visitors who are seeking in Queensland, either a refuge from the penalties hanging over them for former misdeeds, or a new field in which to exercise their nefarious avocations.

TABLE comparing the NUMBER of PERSONS taken into CUSTODY and SUMMARILY CONVICTED or DISCHARGED by the several Courts of Petty Sessions, in the Years 1863 and 1864.

YEAR.	TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.					CONVICTED.					Committed for Trial.	Discharged.
	Offences against Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkards.	Vagrants.	Total taken into Custody.	Offences against Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkards.	Vagrants.	Total Convicted.		
1863 - - -	432	530	1,669	307	2,938	268	256	1,206	210	1,940	131	867
1864 - - -	789	611	2,104	374	3,878	574	248	1,735	267	2,824	177	877
Increase -	357	81	435	67	940	306	—	529	57	884	46	10
Decrease -	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—

A great increase appears by the above table to have taken place in drunkenness and vagrancy, and I fear that this is in some measure attributable to the large number of public houses. After making the most liberal allowance for the wants of our increasing population, the number of licensed houses still appears to be quite disproportioned to its reasonable or honest necessities. In the year 1862, 193 public houses were licensed; in 1863, the number was increased to 253; and in 1864, it is further increased to 347, of which 90 are in the police district of Brisbane, with a population on the 30th June 1864 estimated at less than 22,500 persons; and 86 are in the police district of Rockhampton, with a population estimated on the same day at less than 5,500 persons. How many of these are adult males may be tolerably well estimated by reference to the last census, taken on the 1st January 1864, at which date the adult males in the former district numbered 7,324, and in the latter 2,382.

Banks.

The following table shows that the increase in population has been more than equalled by the banking business of the Colony, for while the former has in the year 1864 increased 20·11 per cent., bank notes in circulation have, during the same period, increased 28·02 per cent., bills in circulation 56·07 per cent., deposits 60·15 per cent., coin 38·77 per cent., bullion 978·21 per cent., and discounts 48·78 per cent. In making the above calculations, I have taken the last quarter in each of the years 1863 and 1864; if the average of each of the years was taken as the basis of calculation, the centesimal increase would, in the items notes, coin, and bullion, be larger than stated, and smaller in the items bills, deposits, and discounts.

TABLE comparing the aggregate LIABILITIES and ASSETS of the COLONIAL BANKING ESTABLISHMENTS at the TERMINATION of each QUARTER of the Years 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, and 1864.

		LIABILITIES.					ASSETS.						
Quarters of the Year.	Year.	Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.	Total Liabilities.	Coin.	Bullion.	Landed Property.	Notes and Bills of other Banks.	Balances due from other Banks and Branches.	Notes and Bills discounted and all other Debts due to the Banks.	Total Assets.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s, d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
First Quarter	1860	32,734 16 6	2,419 7 7	57,161 1 5	166,574 10 6	258,889 16 0	52,677 3 1	Nil.	7,172 5 2	4,804 18 8	1,166 11 5	390,250 8 9	456,071 7 1
	1861	46,975 11 8	2,889 5 2	52 18 1	310,842 6 3	360,760 1 2	66,225 3 4	51 8 6	14,235 17 7	1,290 15 10	5,374 10 8	558,895 5 5	596,073 1 4
	1862	78,110 10 1	5,710 7 5	726 13 2	310,843 1 1	395,390 11 9	86,015 14 5	113 15 3	19,491 5 1	1,860 1 2	5,965 10 8	630,686 12 11	744,132 19 6
	1863	89,165 12 10	9,971 0 0	102,634 19 3	368,348 19 11	570,120 12 0	108,455 19 4	Nil.	27,283 12 4	3,917 3 1	2,226 7 11	789,239 8 3	931,122 10 11
	1864	122,916 3 4	16,126 13 3	180,371 18 10	568,318 9 7	887,733 14 5	160,162 3 4	553 18 1	36,007 8 10	8,579 12 1	7,694 16 1	1,234,653 16 10	1,447,651 15 3
Second Quarter	1860	35,744 19 11	2,596 7 10	47 17 1	182,435 4 5	220,824 9 3	58,385 2 11	39 11 5	7,946 19 0	1,694 19 11	2,844 16 1	420,138 16 4	491,050 5 8
	1861	52,143 9 2	3,451 3 7	778 10 0	267,351 16 8	323,724 19 5	71,292 1 7	43 12 6	16,363 6 10	1,672 9 8	6,901 19 2	504,818 1 4	611,091 11 1
	1862	80,773 11 5	7,284 14 11	595 11 5	314,769 17 11	403,423 15 8	90,691 5 3	Nil.	21,415 9 10	2,477 7 8	4,149 1 11	652,029 8 4	770,762 13 0
	1863	93,078 5 5	12,983 12 9	1,880 15 7	412,591 16 7	520,534 10 4	114,641 6 6	Nil.	29,197 6 9	4,248 13 11	2,334 8 8	891,873 7 11	1,042,295 3 9
	1864	129,518 19 5	20,398 15 6	16,436 18 0	675,020 15 1	841,375 8 0	206,064 15 1	1,372 14 7	35,820 17 11	7,881 2 7	11,849 3 4	1,286,689 3 2	1,549,677 16 8
Third Quarter	1860	39,963 3 5	7,920 3 3	18 7 8	236,337 5 0	284,238 19 4	61,289 13 10	86 8 1	11,996 18 3	1,289 11 11	4,730 17 11	472,537 11 4	551,931 1 4
	1861	56,773 6 3	3,617 13 0	5,024 9 1	266,700 10 9	332,115 19 1	78,869 2 2	46 1 4	16,475 6 1	1,548 4 1	4,325 4 6	590,308 7 10	691,572 6 0
	1862	79,599 11 5	18,468 15 7	941 17 11	344,542 14 3	443,552 19 2	96,166 2 4	Nil.	21,709 0 11	2,337 18 6	5,813 6 1	683,862 15 9	809,889 3 7
	1863	98,201 7 10	20,382 3 9	7,007 9 1	435,877 1 2	561,468 1 10	117,332 16 5	8 7 4	32,118 7 4	3,913 12 5	5,425 18 3	998,726 19 5	1,157,526 1 2
	1864	141,629 16 3	28,180 0 7	25,433 4 3	672,435 19 11	867,679 1 0	201,904 19 10	6,256 4 7	36,022 1 8	8,615 15 6	13,592 16 3	1,427,928 7 2	1,694,320 5 0
Fourth Quarter	1860	42,765 11 8	2,473 18 11	17 2 10	286,917 1 4	332,173 14 9	63,843 6 7	43 14 11	13,749 18 8	1,293 14 9	4,870 4 4	490,860 2 5	574,661 1 8
	1861	63,104 12 4	4,499 17 5	323 5 3	322,310 5 5	390,238 0 5	84,916 8 6	40 8 6	18,016 0 7	1,527 7 3	8,101 16 1	618,315 18 1	730,917 19 0
	1862	87,103 4 10	11,903 6 0	2,083 17 4	341,155 8 8	442,245 16 10	105,268 11 6	Nil.	25,538 9 8	2,286 14 1	4,107 1 10	751,678 5 10	888,879 2 11
	1863	107,634 1 10	14,351 5 10	4,189 16 5	472,765 16 0	598,941 0 1	128,632 4 1	1,253 7 6	34,542 6 1	8,649 0 2	6,894 18 1	1,055,989 5 3	1,235,961 1 2
	1864	137,799 3 5	22,398 11 11	11,057 8 4	757,153 19 4	928,409 3 0	178,503 11 0	13,510 0 3	38,874 19 11	17,201 16 11	6,504 0 8	1,571,188 5 9	1,825,782 14 6

QUEENSLAND.

Crown Lands.

A return of Crown lands, sold, granted, or leased in the year 1864:—

	a.	r.	p.
Sold in the year 1864 - - - -	139,814	1	20¾
Granted in the year 1864 - - -	2,311	1	6
Total land alienated in fee - -	142,125	2	26¾
Leased during the year 1864 -	6,629	2	6

The occupied portion of the territory comprised within the boundaries of this Colony is divided into divisions called Commissioners' Districts, and as fresh country becomes occupied the boundaries of the adjoining districts are either altered, so as to include it, or a fresh district is proclaimed. At the time of the separation of Queensland from the Colony of New South Wales, the occupied territory of the former was considered as all included in the Commissioners' districts of Moreton, Port Curtis, Wide Bay, Darling Downs, Maranoa, and Leichhardt; to these have been subsequently added South Kennedy, North Kennedy, Mitchell, Warrego, and Cook, the latter situated at the extreme northern end of York Peninsula, and including the newly formed township of Somerset at Cape York.

The quantity of Crown land sold by public auction in each of the years 1863 and 1864 is compared in the following table:—

Years.	Commissioners' Districts.							Total.
	Moreton.	Darling Downs.	Port Curtis.	Wide Bay.	Kennnedy, South.	Maranoa.	Leichhardt.	
	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.
1863	24,479 1 29¼	7,614 1 7½	4,845 0 16	2,790 1 36	1,813 2 15	22 2 0	25 0 0	41,590 1 23¾
1864	25,508 1 23½	5,652 2 22½	4,809 0 13½	1,518 0 21	3,676 0 33	21 0 0	9 0 0	41,194 1 33¼

It appears from the above table that a rather smaller quantity of Crown land was sold by auction in the latter than in the former year. The price at which it sold is, however, proved by the returns to have been considerably larger in the year 1864 than in the preceding year. In 1863 the gross amount realized was 87,227*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*; in 1864, it was 110,996*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*

In addition to the above sales effected by auction, a large quantity of Crown land has been sold without being submitted to public competition; the quantity thus disposed of and the price it realized in each of the two years 1863 and 1864, are as follows:—

—	Extent.	Value.
	a r. p.	£ *s.* *d.*
1863	21,358 0 14½	21,600 8 10
1864	98,619 3 27½	99,729 7 2

The centesimal increase that has taken place in the non-competitive sales of the latter year is, in the quantity sold, at the rate of 461·74 per cent., and in the money realized at the rate of 461·71 per cent. on the quantity and value of the year 1863.

The total quantity of Crown land alienated in fee within the boundaries of Queensland since the formation of the Colony, and up to the 31st December 1863, was 213,123 acres 2 roods 14 perches; the addition of the alienations of last year, which, including free grants, amount to 142,125 acres 2 roods 26¾ perches, increases the quantity alienated since separation by more than 50 per cent., making it 355,249 acres 1 rood 0¾ perches. The total quantity of land alienated by the Crown before and since Separation, up to the 31st December 1864, is 433,301 acres 1 rood 5½ perches. All land alienated in fee by the Crown since the 1st January 1862, has been granted under the provisions of the Real Property Act of 1861, and as one of the effects of that Act has been, by its inexpensive system of conveyancing, to add value to all real property, more especially to land so situated as to be susceptible of subdivision and of sale in small portions, it may not be deemed out of place to supply a few tables showing the extent to which the public of Queensland have availed themselves of the provisions of the said Act. The Real Property Act passed by the Parliament of Queensland in the year 1861, introducing into this Colony

QUEENSLAND.

the system of transferring and dealing with real property, so successfully established by Mr. Torrens in the Colony of South Australia, came into force on the 1st January 1862. The returns for three years are therefore available.

A RETURN of the NUMBER of APPLICATIONS to bring Land under the provisions of the Real Property Act, and of the Number of Transfers, Mortgages, or of other dealings with Land previously brought under the provisions of the Real Property Act, for three years ending on the 31st December 1864.

——	1862.	1863.	1864.
*Number of applications to bring land under the Act - -	485	530	650
Number of transfers of land already under the Act - -	376	1,317	2,397
Number of mortgages of land already under the Act - -	36	107	306
†Number of other dealings of land already under the Act -	6	32	62
Total - - - - - -	903	1,986	3,415

* One application often contains many portions of land.
† Other dealings consist of leases, transmissions, appointments of trustees, &c.

A RETURN of the QUANTITY of LAND under the Provisions of the Real Property Act on the 31st December 1864.

	A.	R.	P.
Land brought under the Act by application - - -	15,032	2	$26\frac{3}{4}$
Land brought under the Act by deed of grant - - -	258,733	0	$9\frac{3}{4}$
Total quantity of land under the Act - -	273,765	2	$36\frac{1}{2}$

NOTE.—More than 63 per cent. of all the land in Queensland alienated in fee by the Crown is under the provisions of this Act.

A RETURN of the FEES of OFFICE and CONTRIBUTIONS to the ASSURANCE FUND, collected in the Real Property Office.

——	1862.			1863.			1864.			Total.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Fees of office - - - -	1,031	1	1	2,031	10	10	3,378	5	4	6,440	17	3
Assurance Fund - - - -	286	9	4	377	7	8	716	1	0	1,379	18	0
Total - - -	1,317	10	5	2,408	18	6	4,094	6	4	7,820	15	3

NOTE.—No claim for compensation from the Assurance Fund has yet been made.

RETURN of PAYMENTS made on account of SALARIES and CONTINGENCIES.

——	1862.			1863.			1864.			Total.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Payments made on account of salaries - -	926	15	4	1,264	8	10	1,579	1	5	3,750	3	4
Payments made on account of contingencies -	136	10	3	342	9	1	392	0	9	871	0	1
Total payments - - -	1,063	5	7	1,606	17	11	1,950	19	11	4,621	3	5

I have not attempted in the above tables to affix any value to the land dealt with; such an attempt could only be a guess, probably very wide of the truth. The amount paid into the Assurance Fund is no guide, as the upset price paid to Government for the majority of the land on which the subscription paid to the Assurance Fund is calculated, is very far below the real value; the same land having in many instances been subdivided by the original purchaser from the Crown, and sold for as many pounds sterling as he paid shillings for it.

QUEENSLAND.

Shipping.

A RETURN of all VESSELS, their AGGREGATE TONNAGE and CREWS, trading to the COLONY of QUEENSLAND, during the Year 1864.

ENTERED INWARDS.			CLEARED OUTWARDS.		
Ships.	Tonnage.	Crews.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Crews.
431	129,687	9,265	396	116,702	8,352

Of the above 431 ships entered inwards, 427, of 127,118 tons burden, and manned by crews numbering 9,181, were British. 34 ships, of 30,255 tons burden, arrived during the year direct from the United Kingdom, and three of 2,155 tons burden, from Germany. Compared with the year 1863, the increase in the number of ships entered inwards is 42, of 25,266 tons burden, and of ships cleared outwards is 43, of 17,858 tons burden; calculated centesimally, the number of ships in and out has increased at the rate of 11·45 and their aggregate tonnage at the rate 21·21 per cent., the latter being an increase 1·10 per cent. greater than the increase in the population. In addition to the above foreign trade, many fine steamers and numerous sailing ships are employed in the coasting and river trade of the Colony, which trade, although quite in its infancy, already extends from Moreton Bay on the south, to the extreme northern end of York Peninsula in the 11th parallel of south latitude, a distance of more than 1,000 miles. Full particulars of the foreign shipping for the last five years are contained in the following table:—

STATEMENT of the NUMBER, TONNAGE, and CREWS of VESSELS entered Inwards in the Colony of QUEENSLAND, during the Years 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, and 1864.

COUNTRIES WHENCE ARRIVED.	Year.	BRITISH.									FOREIGN.									TOTAL.								
		With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.			With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.			With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
		Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
Great Britain	1860	3	1,085	48	—	—	—	3	1,085	48	1	315	11	—	—	—	1	315	11	4	1,400	59	—	—	—	4	1,400	59
	1861	7	6,105	213	—	—	—	7	6,105	213	1	281	11	—	—	—	1	281	11	8	6,386	224	—	—	—	8	6,386	224
	1862	22	19,723	762	1	32	8	23	19,755	770	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	19,723	762	1	32	8	23	19,755	770
	1863	29	32,157	1,217	—	—	—	29	32,157	1,217	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	32,157	1,217	—	—	—	29	32,157	1,217
	1864	34	30,255	1,157	—	—	—	34	30,255	1,151	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	30,255	1,151	—	—	—	34	30,255	1,151
New South Wales	1860	196	42,950	3,603	2	210	18	198	43,160	3,621	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	196	42,950	3,603	2	210	18	198	43,160	3,621
	1861	221	47,588	4,283	1	147	19	222	47,735	4,302	—	—	—	1	47	4	1	47	4	221	47,588	4,283	2	194	23	223	47,782	4,606
	1862	262	48,247	4,946	4	319	28	266	48,566	4,974	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	262	48,247	4,946	4	319	28	266	48,566	4,974
	1863	304	61,414	6,186	7	965	46	311	62,379	6,232	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	304	61,414	6,186	7	965	46	311	62,379	6,232
	1864	324	85,589	7,482	2	40	8	326	85,629	7,490	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	324	85,589	7,482	2	40	8	326	85,629	7,490
Victoria	1860	3	568	29	—	—	—	3	568	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	568	29	—	—	—	3	568	29
	1861	9	1,369	130	—	—	—	9	1,396	130	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	1,396	130	—	—	—	9	1,396	130
	1862	19	2,611	99	—	—	—	19	2,611	99	1	1,436	33	—	—	—	1	1,436	33	20	4,047	132	—	—	—	20	4,047	132
	1863	17	2,386	167	—	—	—	17	2,387	167	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	2,387	167	—	—	—	17	2,387	167
	1864	21	3,232	163	—	—	—	21	3,232	163	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	3,232	163	—	—	—	21	3,232	163
South Australia	1860	1	130	7	—	—	—	1	130	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	130	7	—	—	—	1	130	7
	1861	4	867	37	—	—	—	4	867	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	867	37	—	—	—	4	867	37
	1862	6	1,049	52	—	—	—	6	1,049	52	1	316	9	—	—	—	1	316	9	7	1,365	61	—	—	—	7	1,365	61
	1863	12	2,129	99	—	—	—	12	2,129	99	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	2,129	99	—	—	—	12	2,129	99
	1864	19	3,488	157	—	—	—	19	3,488	157	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	3,488	157	—	—	—	19	3,488	157
Tasmania	1860	3	431	24	—	—	—	3	431	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	431	24	—	—	—	3	431	24
	1861	4	533	28	—	—	—	4	533	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	533	28	—	—	—	4	533	28
	1862	7	1,020	50	—	—	—	7	1,020	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1,020	50	—	—	—	7	1,020	50
	1863	12	1,963	111	—	—	—	12	1,963	111	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	1,963	111	—	—	—	12	1,963	111
	1864	18	2,542	127	—	—	—	18	2,542	127	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	2,542	127	—	—	—	18	2,542	127
New Zealand	1860	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1862	2	416	22	—	—	—	2	416	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	416	22	—	—	—	2	416	22
	1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1864	2	722	32	3	200	20	5	922	52	1	414	18	—	—	—	1	414	18	3	1,136	50	3	200	20	6	1,336	70
Other Ports not European	1860	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	47	5	1	47	5	—	—	—	1	47	5	1	47	5
	1861	1	101	7	1	72	6	2	173	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	101	7	1	72	6	2	173	13
	1862	3	888	104	—	—	—	3	888	104	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	888	104	—	—	—	3	888	104
	1863	1	166	7	1	124	6	2	290	13	—	—	—	1	179	10	1	179	10	1	166	7	2	303	16	3	469	23
	1864	4	1,050	41	—	—	—	4	1,050	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1,050	41	—	—	—	4	1,050	41
Other European Ports	1860	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	240	12	—	—	—	1	240	12	1	240	12	—	—	—	1	240	12
	1862	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1,255	43	—	—	—	2	1,255	43	2	1,255	43	—	—	—	2	1,255	43
	1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2,937	99	—	—	—	5	2,937	99	5	2,937	99	—	—	—	5	2,937	99
	1864	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2,155	66	—	—	—	3	2,155	66	3	2,155	66	—	—	—	3	2,155	66
Totals	1860	206	45,164	3,711	2	210	18	208	45,374	3,729	1	315	11	1	47	5	2	362	16	207	45,479	3,727	3	257	23	210	45,736	3,745
	1861	246	56,590	4,698	2	219	25	248	56,809	4,723	2	521	23	1	47	4	3	568	27	248	57,111	4,721	3	266	29	251	57,377	4,750
	1862	321	73,954	6,033	5	351	36	326	74,305	6,069	4	3,007	85	—	—	—	4	3,007	85	325	76,961	6,118	5	351	36	330	77,312	6,154
	1863	375	100,216	7,787	8	1,089	52	383	101 305	7,839	5	2,937	99	1	179	10	6	3,116	109	380	103,153	7,886	9	1,268	62	389	104,421	7,948
	1864	422	126,878	9,153	5	240	28	427	127,118	9,181	4	2,569	84	—	—	—	4	2,569	84	426	129,447	9,237	5	240	28	431	129,687	9,265

QUEENSLAND.

Trade.

A return of the estimated value of the total imports and exports of the Colony of Queensland, for the year 1864:—

	£
Imports	2,267,954
Exports	1,247,054
Total Trade	£3,515,008

Imports.

The imports of the year 1863 were valued at 1,713,263*l.*; there is, therefore, an increase under this head of 554,691*l.*, being at the rate of 32·37 per cent. Compared with the mean population of each year, an increase per head is also shown. In 1863, they were at the rate of 31*l.* 14*s.* 10½*d.* per head of the population; in 1864, they were at the rate of 33*l.* 8*s.* 8½*d.* per head of the population.

Exports.

In the year 1863 the value of our exports was estimated at 888,381*l.*; in the year 1864 they were estimated to be of the value of 1,247,054*l.*, the centesimal rate of increase being 40·37. Comparing them with the mean population of each year, in 1863 they were at the rate of 16*l.*, 9*s.* 2½*d.* per head; in 1864 they were at the larger rate of 18*l.* 7*s.* 7¾*d.* per head.

The quantity and value of wool exported in each of the years 1863 and 1864 to Great Britain direct and to New South Wales is shown below:—

—	To Great Britain.		To New South Wales.		Total.	
	Quantity. lbs.	Estimated Value. £	Quantity. lbs.	Estimated Value. £	Quantity. lbs.	Estimated Value. £
1863	2,502,064	213,688	8,166,980	563,088	10,669,044	776,776
1864	3,932,715	337,818	10,074,074	699,845	14,006,789	1,037,663

The progress of the wool trade is shown in the following return of the quantity exported each year, from 1860 to 1864 inclusive:—

	lbs.
1860	5,007,167
1861	6,994,033
1862	8,063,612
1863	10,669,044
1864	14,006,789

Gold dust, the produce of Queensland gold fields, appears for the first time in the exports of the year 1864 in sufficient quantity to attract attention. The quantity exported was 22,037 ozs. 5 dwts. 22 grs., and its estimated value is 83,292*l.*

The following table shows the commerce of Queensland for the last five years, the countries with which it is carried on being grouped under seven different heads, and the per-centages of annual increase or diminution calculated in each case.

TOTAL VALUE in Sterling of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS of the COLONY of QUEENSLAND, from and to each Country, in the Years 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, and 1864.

——	Year.	Imports therefrom.	Exports thereto.	Increase per Cent. (*) Or Decrease per Cent. (†)	
				Imports.	Exports.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£
Great Britain	1860	56,730 0 0	—	—	—
	1861	90,905 0 0	119,515 0 0	* 60·24	—
	1862	215,509 0 0	238,553 0 0	*137·07	* 99·60
	1863	365,093 0 0	233,392 0 0	* 69·41	* 21·63
	1864	506,697 0 0	354,636 0 0	* 38·79	* 51·95
Australian Colonies and New Zealand	1860	523,165 0 0	161,546 0 0	—	—
	1861	874,797 13 11	589,633 15 0	* 67·21	*264·99
	1862	1,100,935 0 0	550,839 0 0	* 25·85	† 6·58
	1863	1,335,606 0 0	649,299 0 0	* 21·32	* 17·87
	1864	1,746,871 0 0	892,320 0 0	* 30·79	* 37·43
Germany	1860	—	—	—	—
	1861	1,180 0 0	—	—	—
	1862	4,688 0 0	—	* 29·73	—
	1863	12,539 0 0	—	* 16·53	—
	1864	7,370 0 0	—	† 41·22	—
India, China, Ceylon, Batavia, Penang, and Guam	1860	—	311 0 0	—	—
	1861	—	450 0 0	—	* 44·69
	1862	3 0 0	1,876 0 0	—	*316·89
	1863	—	4,521 0 0	—	*140·99
	1864	—	94 0 0	—	† 97·92
South America	1860	—	—	—	—
	1861	—	—	—	—
	1862	—	1,968 0 0	—	—
	1863	—	706 0 0	—	† 64·13
	1864	6,880 0 0	4 0 0	—	† 99·43
New Caledonia	1860	—	311 0 0	—	—
	1861	—	—	—	—
	1862	2,394 0 0	—	—	—
	1863	—	—	—	—
	1864	36 0 0	—	—	—
South Sea Islands and Coral Sea Fishery	1860	—	—	—	—
	1861	1,068 0 0	—	—	—
	1862	—	—	—	—
	1863	25 0 0	463 0 0	—	—
	1864	100 0 0	—	*300·00	—
Totals	1860	742,023 0 0	523,476 0 0	—	—
	1861	967,950 13 11	709,598 15 0	* 30·45	* 35·56
	1862	1,323,509 0 0	793,236 0 0	* 36·73	* 11·79
	1863	1,713,263 0 0	888,381 0 0	* 29·45	* 11·99
	1864	2,267,954 0 0	1,247,054 0 0	* 32·38	* 40·37

Live Stock.

Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
40,678	882,073	5,665,334	12,066

The above return of live stock, analyzed in the following table, and compared with the returns for the year 1863, must only be considered as the return of live stock in the, comparatively speaking, settled portions of the Colony. From the distant stations to the westward, or towards the Gulf of Carpentaria, to which during the last 18 months large quantities of live stock have been or are being conveyed, it is at present impossible to obtain returns; not only, therefore, can no account be taken of the increase obtained from these flocks and herds, but the returns in the more accessible districts are diminished by the number of sheep, cattle, and horses removed to stock these distant localities.

QUEENSLAND.

Judging from the small difference between the returns of the years 1863 and 1864, it would thus seem as if a number equal to the whole of the year's increase had migrated into the interior.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of LIVE STOCK in the COLONY of QUEENSLAND in the Years 1863 and 1864.

District.	1863.				1864.			
	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Banana - - -	810	55,812	84,501	23	902	5,148	261,127	62
Brisbane - - -	5,012	68,429	4,475	1,581	3,508	34,267	6,974	3,750
Condamine - - -	628	11,661	187,369	5	546	7,427	82,251	17
Dalby - - - -	1,851	25,586	546,218	185	1,887	23,918	531,047	201
Drayton and Toowoomba -	3,789	34,441	486,785	737	3,426	31,817	565,218	1,074
Gayndah - - -	2,657	65,142	696,185	367	2,631	66,530	604,816	228
Gladstone - - -	1,236	36,256	57,513	253	1,352	55,816	14,200	289
Goondiwindi - - -	5,248	32,400	113,030	98	1,180	27,022	98,668	236
Ipswich - - -	4,752	88,285	170,614	1,805	6,539	99,824	143,433	2,663
Kennedy, North and South -	1,832	55,691	255,500	28	1,559	60,346	325,769	192
Maranoa, East (Surat) - -	1,202	64,739	537,701	—	797	57,113	143,538	3
Maranoa, West (St. George) -	3,718	115,706	307,170	29	2,042	101,220	242,938	31
Maryborough - - -	2,084	88,314	98,714	603	2,533	117,734	90,289	681
Mitchell - - -	361	17,992	67,227	2	153	2,577	59,092	—
Nanango - - -	1,556	16,817	122,176	27	1,484	22,911	76,718	29
Peak Downs, North and South -	509	6,206	261,168	—	509 *	6,206 *	261,168 *	—
Princhester and Isaacs - -	484	20,758	61,950	108	593	27,483	26,953	92
Rockhampton - - -	1,598	21,356	196,119	322	1,867	32,389	215,280	765
Roma - - - -	—	—	—	—	679	9,929	439,395	—
Springsure - - -	799	7,393	396,751	—	1,076	21,407	508,477	26
Taroom - - -	1,638	11,077	486,665	—	1,207	9,949	432,079	28
Warrego - - -	—	—	—	—	699	20,725	85,228	—
Warwick - - -	4,041	36,331	534,569	1,178	3,509	40,315	450,676	1,699
Total - - -	45,805	880,392	5,672,400	7,351	40,678	882,073	5,665,334	12,066

* No returns having been received from Peak Downs, the figures given are repeated from the preceding year.

On the 31st December 1863, the sum of 2,566,500*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* had been borrowed on the security of 3,686,424 sheep, 423,783 cattle, and 29,884 horses. To these figures are now to be added, as the result of similar operations in the year 1864, the sum of 908,173*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*, secured on 1,328,209 sheep, 126,155 cattle, and 5,096 horses; the total sum, therefore, secured on mortgage of live stock on the 31st December 1864, was 3,474,673*l.*, and the amount of stock on which it is secured is—sheep, 5,014,633; cattle, 549,938; horses, 34,980. The liens on wool of the ensuing clip, registered during the year 1864, are in number 115; the number of sheep whose wool is thus pledged is 1,781,782, and the sum lent on this security is 304,821*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

Agriculture.

Land under cultivation in the year 1864, 12,006 acres 2 roods 37 perches.

The annual increase in the quantity of land under cultivation is small, amounting only to 744 acres 2 roods 17 perches. On an examination of the following table it will be seen that the district of Warwick is the only one in which agriculture has made any noteworthy progress; there is an increase of a few acres in Drayton, and also in Ipswich, but in Brisbane and some other districts there is an absolute falling off.

COMPARATIVE VIEW of the STATE of AGRICULTURE in each DISTRICT of QUEENSLAND for the Years of 1863 and 1864.

District.		Wheat.	Maize.	Barley for Grain.	Oats for Grain.	Millet for Grain.	Potatoes.	Tobacco.	Arrowroot.	Sugar Cane.	Cotton.	Dry Fodder.	Green Fodder.	Gardens.	Vineyards.	Total.
		a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.
Banana	1863	—	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11 2 0	—	12 2 0
	1864	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7 3 0	—	7 3 0
Bowen, Mackay, and Waverley	1863	—	3 0 0	—	—	—	1 0 0	—	—	—	0 0 1	—	—	2 0 1	0 1 0	6 1 2
	1864	—	3 0 0	—	—	0 1 0	2 0 0	—	—	0 0 8	—	10 0 0	6 0 0	5 2 0	0 3 0	27 2 8
Brisbane	1863	62 0 0	1,593 3 2	5 2 0	36 2 0	25 3 3	306 3 25	—	27 3 37	—	847 1 0	173 3 0	292 1 0	563 2 1	30 0 0	3,965 0 28
	1864	0 2 0	1,856 1 1	13 1 0	47 0 1	9 2 0	610 2 32	5 0 20	41 2 39	80 3 0	117 2 10	261 3 0	157 1 20	439 2 22	42 0 0	3,683 0 25
Condamine, Goondiwindi, & Roma	1863	5 0 30	8 1 0	—	—	1 1 0	1 0 12	—	0 2 0	—	—	—	—	8 0 0	1 0 0	25 1 2
	1864	1 0 0	15 1 30	3 2 0	—	—	9 0 26	—	0 0 10	—	0 0 20	—	—	13 0 0	11 0 0	53 1 6
Dalby	1863	—	14 0 0	—	—	—	1 2 0	—	0 1 0	—	—	—	1 0 0	9 3 0	3 0 0	29 1 0
	1864	—	11 0 0	—	1 0 0	0 2 0	2 3 0	—	—	—	0 2 0	14 0 0	0 2 0	16 2 6	2 2 0	49 1 6
Drayton and Toowoomba	1863	23 0 0	464 1 3	2 0 0	42 0 0	5 0 0	252 3 21	—	—	—	0 0 20	52 3 0	127 2 0	38 2 0	11 3 20	1,020 0 24
	1864	163 1 0	810 2 0	4 1 0	16 1 0	—	367 0 10	2 0 16	0 3 15	—	1 0 0	96 1 24	31 0 0	85 2 5	22 3 16	1,601 0 6
Gayndah	1863	—	25 2 6	2 0 0	4 1 0	1 0 0	3 0 0	—	—	—	0 2 0	1 0 0	—	24 2 1	0 1 1	62 0 8
	1864	—	31 2 10	—	6 0 0	0 2 0	11 2 31	—	—	—	—	18 0 0	5 1 0	29 3 1	4 0 5	106 3 7
Gladstone	1863	—	13 2	0 0 4	—	0 0 22	17 2 15	—	—	—	700 0 0	—	5 0 0	30 3 5	—	767 0 7
	1864	—	2 2	—	—	—	2 0 0	0 3 0	—	—	9 0 0	—	—	58 0 8	—	72 1 8
Ipswich	1863	10 2 0	489 1 12	5 0 0	79 0 32	10 2 0	62 0 0	—	14 0 4	—	320 3 8	487 2 0	42 0 0	146 0 20	0 3 1	1,667 2 37
	1864	1 3 0	774 1 4	4 3 0	66 3 3	4 3 0	105 0 18	6 1 27	2 3 14	—	303 1 10	342 0 0	114 0 0	183 0 8	16 1 35	1,925 1 39
Maryborough	1863	1 1 0	238 3 0	—	4 0 0	1 1 0	48 3 0	—	13 0 3	—	137 1 0	3 0 0	14 0 0	32 3 1	0 2 20	494 2 24
	1864	0 2 0	289 2 0	—	16 1 0	0 2 0	64 2 0	2 3 16	5 2 36	12 3 26	37 0 1	18 0 0	2 0 0	119 3 21	1 3 20	571 2 0
Nanango	1863	—	18 1 0	1 2 0	17 0 0	0 2 0	0 2 0	—	—	—	—	7 0 0	1 0 0	3 2 0	1 2 0	50 3 0
	1864	—	17 0 0	—	2 0 0	—	1 0 22	—	—	—	—	32 0 0	18 0 0	7 3 0	0 2 0	78 1 22
Princhester	1863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 2 0	—	2 2 0
	1864	—	22 0 0	—	—	—	10 2 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	10 2 0	—	43 0 0
Rockhampton	1863	—	47 0 0	2 0 0	—	24 0 0	12 0 0	—	0 1 0	—	13 0 0	—	—	62 3 16	1 0 0	162 0 16
	1864	1 0 0	32 2 0	2 0 0	—	1 0 0	4 1 0	—	0 1 6	—	8 2 0	25 0 0	11 0 0	45 1 10	2 0 4	133 3 20
St. George and Surat	1863	6 0 0	10 3 0	—	1 0 0	—	0 1 0	—	—	—	—	—	0 1 0	8 0 0	1 2 0	27 3 0
	1864	5 0 0	5 1 27	0 2 0	3 0 0	0 3 0	0 1 0	—	—	—	—	3 0 0	3 1 0	6 2 8	0 1 0	27 3 35
Springsure	1863	—	0 1 1	—	—	—	0 0 20	—	—	—	—	—	0 2 0	1 2 0	—	2 1 21
	1864	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 0 0	—	1 0 0
Taroom	1863	—	1 0 0	—	0 2 0	1 0 0	0 2 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 2 0	0 2 0	7 3 0
	1864	—	1 3 0	—	—	—	0 0 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	16 3 0	—	18 2 20
Warwick	1863	1,309 1 0	1,065 3 0	24 0 0	37 3 0	3 1 0	163 3 35	—	—	—	2 2 0	209 0 0	83 3 32	46 0 0	13 1 24	2,958 3 11
	1864	1,749 0 0	1,085 3 0	14 2 0	123 0 0	2 2 0	177 0 10	—	0 0 2	—	2 2 0	213 0 0	214 0 0	18 3 3	5 2 20	3,605 2 35
Total	1863	1,417 0 30	3,994 1 25	42 0 4	222 0 32	74 1 25	872 0 8	—	56 0 4	—	2,021 1 29	934 0 0	567 1 32	995 1 5	65 2 26	11,262 0 20
	1864	1,922 0 0	4,959 1 32	42 3 0	281 1 4	20 1 0	1,368 1 9	17 0 39	51 2 2	93 2 34	479 2 1	1,033 0 24	562 1 20	1,065 1 12	109 3 20	12,006 2 37

QUEENSLAND.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue, including Land Orders cancelled.			Expenditure.		
£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
502,456	9	7	439,034	18	6

The above revenue received during the year 1864 is exclusive of a further sum of 21,742*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* placed to the credit of various accounts under the general head of special receipts.

In 1863, the revenue, including land orders received in payment for land sold, amounted to 390,823*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*; the increase in the revenue of the year 1864 is, therefore, 111,633*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, or calculated centesimally, is at the rate of 28·56 per cent. ;—compared with the mean population of the year, the revenue is at the rate of 7*l.* 8*s.* 1¾*d.* per head.

A RETURN comparing the REVENUE of the YEAR 1864 with the preceding Year.

——	1863.			1864.			Increase.			Centesimal Increase.
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	
Customs	125,199	6	11	153,341	19	6	28,142	12	7	22·47
Gold	265	5	0	2,204	0	0	1,936	15	0	725·09
Land Revenue, including value of Land Orders cancelled.	223,436	15	1	281,460	10	8	58,023	15	7	25·96
Postage and Post Office Orders	11,481	10	4	15,157	15	6	3,676	5	2	32·01
Licenses	12,341	17	3	18,104	12	8	5,762	15	5	46·69
Fees of Office	7,121	2	1	9,986	12	5	2,865	10	4	40·23
Fines and Forfeitures	1,101	19	8	1,132	3	5	30	3	9	2·72
Rents, exclusive of land	323	3	9	374	15	3	51	11	6	15·78
Harbour dues and fees	2,460	18	0	3,491	9	5	1,030	11	5	41·87
Civil Service Superannuation Fund	—			1,149	12	5	1,149	12	5	—
Electric Telegraph receipts	4,120	6	1	5,650	5	5	1,529	19	4	37·11
Miscellaneous receipts	2,968	16	8	10,402	12	11	7,433	16	3	250·44
Total Revenue	390,823	0	10	502,456	9	7	111,633	8	9	28·56

The mean population of the Colony for the year 1864 is estimated to have been in number 67,181; the import duties, collected during the year, amounting to 153,341*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, are, therefore, at the rate of 2*l.* 5*s* 7¾*d.* per head.

The following table shows a remarkable agreement between the yearly amount of import duties and the mean population of each year :—

Year.	Mean Population of the year.	Customs Receipts.			Average per Head of the mean Population.			Remarks. Dutiable Articles, and Rate of Import Duty levied on each.
		£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	Brandy, gin, cordials, or liqueurs, 10*s.* per gallon.
1860	27,017	59,210	3	7	2	3	9¾	Whiskey, rum, and perfumed spirits, 7*s.* per gallon.
1861	31,886	71,678	18	11	2	5	7	Wine, above proof, 10*s.* per gallon.
1862	40,593	96,107	11	8	2	7	4¼	Wine, below proof, 2*s.* per gallon.
1863	53,970	125,199	6	11	2	6	4¾	Ale or beer, in wood, 1*d.* per gallon.
1864	67,181	153,341	19	6	2	5	7¾	Ale or beer, in bottle, 2*d.* per gallon.
								Tea, 3*d.* per lb.
								Sugar, refined, 6*s.* 8*d.* per cwt.
								Sugar, unrefined, 5*s.* per cwt.
								Treacle, 3*s.* 4*d.* per cwt.
								Coffee, 2*d.* per lb.
								Cigars, 3*s.* per lb.
Total	220,647	505,538	0	7	2	5	9¾	Tobacco and snuff, 2*s.* per lb.
								Opium, 10*s.* per lb.

A RETURN of the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the COLONY for each of the last five years, exclusive of Special Receipts and Expenditure, or of items of Expenditure, subsequently transferred to Loan Account, but inclusive of the value of Land Orders received as Cash Payments for Land purchased from the Crown.

Year.	Revenue, inclusive of Land Orders cancelled, but exclusive of Special Receipts.	Expenditure chargeable to the Consolidated Revenue.	Surplus (*) or Deficiency (†) of Revenue.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1860 - - - -	177,767 17 8	158,719 8 5	*19,048 9 3
1861 - - - -	236,307 9 9	255,180 4 7	†18,872 14 10
1862 - - - -	342,027 12 8	302,165 15 7	*39,861 17 1
1863 - - - -	390,823 0 10	355,791 14 1	*35,031 6 9
1864 - - - -	502,456 9 7	439,034 18 6	*63,421 11 1
Total - -	1,649,382 10 6	1,510,892 1 2	*138,490 9 4

The public debt of the Colony amounted, on the 31st December 1864, to 548,800*l.*, that being the sum raised by the sale of debentures valued at par, the premium at which they sold having been carried to the credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The total sum authorized by Parliament to be borrowed amounts to 1,850,236*l.* 1*s.* sterling; there remained, therefore, on the 31st December 1864, debentures still unsold representing the sum of 1,301,436*l.* 1*s.* The total disbursements made out of the fund created by the sale of debentures amounted, on the 31st December 1864, to 578,392*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*

Conclusion.

The two following tables, which will close this report, consist of a synopsis of the statistics of Queensland for five years, ending on the 31st December 1864, and of a table exhibiting the annual centesimal increases for the same period, in population, agriculture, live stock, trade, revenue, and expenditure.

SYNOPSIS of the STATISTICS of QUEENSLAND from 1860 to 1864 inclusive.

Year.	Population.			Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Immigration.	Emigration.	Land Sales.		Number of Acres under Cultivation.	Live Stock.			
	Males.	Females.	Persons.						Number of Acres.	Amount Realized.		Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1859 - - -	14,940	10,206	25,146						A. R. P.	£ s. d.	A. R. P.				
1860 - - -	17,275	11,612	28,887	1,236	255	478	—	—	23,587 1 21	37,978 15 3	3,353 1 0	23,504	432,890	3,166,802	7,147
1861 - - -	21,231	13,654	34,885	1,423	320	499	6,178	1,809	56,849 1 14¼	94,063 3 1	4,440 2 18	28,983	560,196	4,093,381	7,465
1862 - - -	28,177	18,123	46,300	1,702	570	797	12,252	2,447	67,873 1 9	106,019 13 5	6,086 0 20¾	36,532	637,296	4,353,353	7,066
1863 - - -	37,579	24,061	61,640	2,221	774	1,275	17,450	3,761	62,948 1 38¼	108,828 8 6	11,262 0 20	45,805	880,392	5,672,400	7,351
1864 - - -	45,516	28,520	74,036	2,883	951	1,446	17,009	6,050	139,814 1 20¾	210,725 18 5	12,006 2 37	40,678	882,073	5,665,334	12,066

Year.	Shipping.						Exports of Colonial Produce.					Imports.	Exports.	Gross Revenue.	Gross Expenditure.	Loans authorized by Parliament.	Education.		Convictions in the Supreme and Circuit Courts.
	Inwards.			Outwards.															
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.	Wool (Value).	Tallow (Value).	Hides and Skins (Value).	Gold (Value).	Cotton (Value).	Total Value.	Total Value.				Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars.	
							£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£			
1860	210	45,736	3,745	183	39,503	3,138	444,188	25,628	14,030	—	—	742,023	523,477	178,589 8 5	161,503 5 3	—	62	3,169	30
1861	251	57,377	4,750	234	51,827	4,395	613,074	48,009	19,834	—	—	967,951	709,599	238,238 9 1	299,006 5 5	123,800	68	4,221	24
1862	330	77,312	6,154	305	71,981	5,554	671,970	50,961	17,362	—	—	1,323,509	793,236	346,431 5 5	367,316 14 7	—	84	4,925	23
1863	389	104,421	7,948	353	98,844	7,184	776,776	30,716	16,149	14,802	3,056	1,713,263	888,381	390,823 0 10	416,584 14 11	707,436	107	6,175	56
1864	431	129,687	9,265	396	116,702	8,352	699,845	32,999	14,999	83,292	4,186	2,267,954	1,247,045	524,198 17 11	439,034 18 6	1,019,000	129	7,260	61

TABLE exhibiting the ANNUAL INCREASE per Cent. in the Years 1861, 1862, 1863, and 1864, and the TOTAL INCREASE per Cent. in the PERIOD of Four Years.

—	Population.			Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Immigration.	Emigration.	Land Sales.		Number of Acres under Cultivation.	Live Stock.			
	Males.	Females.	Persons.						Number of Acres.	Amount realized.		Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Increase per cent. in 1861	22·90	17·59	20·73	15·29	25·49	4·39	—	—	141·02	147·67	32·42	23·31	29·41	29·26	4·45
Increase per cent. in 1862	32·72	32·73	32·72	19·61	78·13	59·72	98·32	35·27	19·39	12·71	37·29	26·05	13·76	11·24	–5·65
Increase per cent. in 1863	33·37	32·76	33·13	30·49	35·79	59·97	42·43	53·62	–7·26	2·65	85·05	25·38	38·14	24·58	4·03
Increase per cent. in 1864	21·14	18·53	20·11	29·81	22·87	21·25	–5·23	60·86	122·11	93·63	6·61	–12·60	0·19	–0·12	64·14
Increase per cent. in the four years -	163·48	145·61	156·30	103·32	272·94	202·51	175·32	234·44	492·50	454·85	258·06	73·07	103·76	78·90	68·83

—	Shipping.						Exports of Colonial Produce.			Imports.	Exports.	Gross Revenue.	Gross Expenditure.	Education.	
	Inwards.			Outwards.											
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.	Wool (Value).	Tallow (Value).	Hides and Skins (Value).	Total Value.	Total Value.			Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars.
Increase per cent. in 1861	19·52	25·45	26·84	27·87	31·20	40·06	38·02	87·33	41·37	30·45	35·55	33·40	85·14	9·68	33·20
Increase per cent. in 1862	31·47	34·74	29·56	30·34	38·89	26·37	9·61	6·15	–14·24	36·73	11·79	45·41	22·85	23·53	16·68
Increase per cent. in 1863	17·88	35·06	29·15	15·74	37·32	24·10	15·60	–65·91	–7·51	29·45	11·99	12·81	13·41	27·38	25·38
Increase per cent. in 1864	10·80	24·20	16·57	12·18	18·07	16·26	–10·99	7·43	–7·67	32·38	40·37	34·13	5·39	20·56	17·57
Increase per cent. in the four years -	105·24	183·56	147·40	116·39	195·43	166·16	57·56	28·76	6·91	205·64	138·23	193·52	171·84	108·06	129·09

I have, &c.
F. O. DARVALL,
Registrar General.

VICTORIA.

No. 18.

VICTORIA.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir CHARLES H. DARLING, K.C.B., to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 29.)

Government House, Melbourne,
March 22, 1866.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the statistics of the Colony of Victoria for the year 1864, and I beg leave to enclose also a copy of the abstract of the principal Return, which is affixed to that document.

2. This compilation contains a vast amount of information in relation to the material progress of the Colony which could not be improved upon or rendered more instructive by any observations which it is in my power to offer.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) C. H. DARLING,
Governor.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY of VICTORIA, from 1855 to 1864 inclusive.

Year.	Population.			Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immigration.	Emigration.	Flour Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	Land Sales.		Number of Acres under Cultivation.
	Males.	Females.	Persons.								Number of Acres.	Amount realized.	
												£	
1855	234,450	129,874	364,324	11,941	6,603	3,847	66,571	26,395	51	227	438,972	763,554	115,135
1856	255,827	141,733	397,560	14,420	5,728	4,116	41,594	21,187	77	213	437,562	749,318	179,983
1857	297,547	165,588	463,135	17,384	7,449	4,524	74,255	20,471	88	386	500,383	1,067,450	237,729
1858	323,576	180,943	504,519	19,929	9,015	4,552	56,168	25,882	89	421	255,724	638,650	298,960
1859	335,708	194,554	530,262	22,092	9,469	4,769	32,735	19,615	97	407	459,082	814,164	358,728
1860	328,251	209,596	537,847	22,863	12,061	4,351	29,037	21,689	94	475	492,248	663,238	419,380
1861	321,724	220,076	541,800	23,461	10,522	4,434	26,912	35,898	104	429	514,745	623,588	439,895
1862	325,768	229,976	555,744	24,391	10,080	4,525	37,836	38,203	104	603	844,969	910,862	465,430
1863	330,571	243,760	574,331	23,906	9,502	4,227	38,983	34,800	110	646	295,180	450,646	507,798
1864	348,279	257,222	605,501	25,680	8,887	4,554	36,156	21,779	93	538	260,169	522,602	479,463

Year.	Live Stock.				Shipping.				Exports of Colonial Produce.			
					Inwards.		Outwards.		Gold.		Wool.	
	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
									ozs.	£	lbs.	£
1855	33,430	534,113	4,577,872	20,686	1,907	551,726	1,995	581,557	2,793,065	11,172,261	22,584,234	1,405,659
1856	47,832	646,613	4,641,548	52,227	1,920	538,609	1,959	538,362	2,985,696	11,942,783	21,968,174	1,506,613
1857	55,683	614,537	4,766,022	43,632	2,190	694,564	2,207	684,526	2,761,528	11,046,113	17,176,920	1,335,642
1858	68,323	699,330	5,578,413	37,756	2,034	648,103	2,015	641,254	2,528,188	10,112,752	21,515,958	1,678,290
1859	69,288	683,534	5,794,127	50,965	2,026	634,131	2,056	661,518	2,280,676	9,122,702	21,660,295	1,756,950
1860	76,536	722,332	5,780,896	61,259	1,814	581,642	1,841	599,137	2,156,661	8,626,642	24,273,910	2,025,066
1861	84,057	628,092	6,239,258	43,480	1,778	549,195	1,820	540,807	1,967,420	7,869,758	23,923,195	2,095,264
1862	86,067	576,601	6,764,851	52,991	1,715	556,188	1,766	581,892	1,658,285	6,685,192	25,245,778	2,350,956
1863	103,328	675,272	7,115,943	79,655	1,739	624,061	1,782	618,052	1,627,066	6,520,957	25,579,886	2,049,491
1864	117,182	640,625	8,406,234	113,530	1,896	641,614	1,816	620,200	1,545,450	6,206,237	39,871,892	3,250,128

Year.	Exports of Colonial Produce.			Imports. (Total Value.)	Exports. (Total Value.)	Revenue for the Service of each Year.	Expenditure for the Service of each Year.	Schools.		Number of Churches, Chapels, &c.	Convictions.*
	Tallow.		Hides and Skins. (Value.)					Number of Schools.	Scholars.		
	Quantity.	Value.									
	lbs.	£	£	£	£	£	£				
1855	1,376,816	29,117	41,871	12,007,939	13,493,338	2,728,656	2,612,807	438	24,478	349	309
1856	1,970,976	35,980	72,103	14,962,269	15,489,760	2,972,496	2,668,834	455	26,323	473	272
1857	4,843,216	62,363	191,828	17,256,209	15,079,512	3,328,303	2,968,658	675	36,671	587	425
1858	2,275,056	43,987	106,527	15,108,249	13,989,209	2,973,383	3,092,720	740	42,432	645	535
1859	548,352	10,354	172,446	15,622,891	13,867,859	3,261,104	3,393,946	772	46,265	642	582
1860	788,144	18,269	144,236	15,093,730	12,962,704	3,082,461	3,315,307	836	51,668	874	416
1861	4,208,960	75,784	100,384	13,532,452	13,828,606	2,952,101	3,092,021	882	56,473	989	846
1862	3,998,904	66,515	130,350	13,487,787	13,039,422	3,269,079	3,039,497	989	65,541	1,137	769
1863	1,938,708	33,871	106,264	14,118,727	13,566,296	2,774,686	2,882,937	1,019	69,619	1,352	684
1864	3,882,256	60,230	102,724	14,974,815	13,898,384	2,958,336†	2,840,103†		66,145	1,531	567

* The convictions to 1860 are only those in the Supreme Court. From 1861 to 1864 inclusive the convictions in Courts of General Sessions are included.

† The figures of Revenue and Expenditure given for 1864 are the amounts received and expended on account of the services of that year to the 31st of August 1865. The statements when completed will contain all receipts and payments on account of 1864 made up to the end of 1865.

WILLIAM HENRY ARCHER, Registrar-General.

TASMANIA.

No. 19.

(Not received.)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir D. DALY to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 2.) Government House, Adelaide,

SIR, January 24, 1866.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Province for the year 1864.

The report of the Government statist, with the general statistics of the Colony for the same period, are appended, and exhibit gratifying evidence of prosperity and steady progress, which is, however, at present partially interrupted by a severe drought that has occasioned considerable losses to the "squatters" or holders of pastoral leases in the interior part of the country.

With this exception, which in its nature is temporary, although of not unfrequent occurrence, the condition of the Colony is very satisfactory.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., (Signed) D. DALY,
&c. &c. &c. Governor.

REPORT to the Honourable JOHN HART, M.P., Chief Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

SIR, Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, December 20, 1865.

IN presenting to you the "Statistical Register of South Australia for the year ending 31st December 1864," I have the honour to submit the following Report for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief; and, in doing so, beg to express regret that circumstances beyond my control have delayed its publication for several weeks. Arrangements entered into for the future will, I trust, obviate a recurrence of any like delay, and as the public journals are now supplied with full statistical information at the close of the year it is of less moment that the *permanent* record of the progress of the Colony should be hastened in its preparation. In such a work accuracy and completeness must remain the chief considerations. It has not been necessary on this occasion to add much to the information hitherto supplied; some tables, however, have been varied, in order to give the particulars in a clearer or more succinct manner. Whilst opposed to too frequent alterations in the forms of supplying statistical information, as tending to destroy the facility for past reference and comparison, I shall still be glad to adopt any suggestions for their improvement that may be pointed out by persons interested in any particular subject.

Population.

The addition to the population during the year 1864 amounted to 6,925 persons, as compared with an increase during the previous 12 months of 5,087 souls, showing a rate of increase during 1864 of five per cent., as against three and three-quarters per cent. in 1863.

The male population was increased by 3,779 persons, and the female by 3,146, making the total inhabitants of the Province, on 31st December 1864, to number 147,341 persons of whom 75,888 were males and 71,453 females.

—	Males.	Females.	Persons.
Population on the 1st January 1864 - - - - -	72,109	68,307	140,416
Increase of population by excess of immigration over emigration (by sea), to 31st December 1864 - - - - -	1,944	1,338	3,282
Increase by excess of births over deaths, up to 31st December 1864 -	1,835	1,808	3,643
Total on 31st December 1864 - - - - -	75,888	71,453	147,341
Increase in 1864 - - - - - - -	3,779	3,146	6,925

From the table above given it will be observed that the disparity between the sexes was augmented during the year by 633 males, attributable to immigration, the addition from that source being 3,282 persons, of whom 1,944 were males and 1,338 females. The natural increase of the population by the excess of births over deaths added 3,643 persons of either sex in nearly equal proportion, viz., 1,835 males and 1,808 females. Although the excess in the number of the male population is not greater proportionately than it was shown to be at the last census, it is worthy of consideration whether the facilities afforded by our system of Government immigration should not be exerted to procure a still nearer approach to equality in the number of the sexes than at present obtains.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

Notwithstanding there were many more children born during the year 1864 than in any previous year, the natural increase of population was somewhat less than that of the year 1863, being only 26 per 1,000 against 27·7 per 1,000; the consequence of a large mortality resulting from the prevalence of an epidemic (scarlatina), which proved exceedingly fatal among young children.

The total number of births registered amounted to 6,208, of which 3,183 were of male children, and 3,025 female, showing an increase over the year 1863 of 242 births. The proportion of births to the whole population at the commencement of the year was 44·0 per 1,000, the same rate as in 1863.

From the cause above mentioned the rate of mortality increased during the 12 months from 16·4 per 1,000 persons to 18·2 per 1,000. The actual number of deaths registered was 2,565 in 1864, against 2,221 in the previous year, an increase of 344 deaths. As the number of deaths of children under five years of age shows an increase of 276 in 1864, being 1,639, and in 1863, 1,363, the deaths among children last year reached nearly two-thirds of the whole mortality.

With respect to the mortality among infants, the number of deaths during 1864 exceeded those of the preceding year by 180, having amounted to 1,214, or at the rate of 47·3 per cent. of the gross mortality, showing an increase of only 0·8 per cent. on that of 1863, but a reduction of 5·7 per cent. on that of 1862.

The number of marriages registered was 1,291, or 139 more than in 1863, being the largest number recorded in any one year.

Immigration and Emigration.

The influx of population was greater in the year under review than in any since 1858, the total arrivals by sea numbering 5,958 souls, of whom 3,720 were males and 2,238 females, showing an increase during 1864 of 1,724 souls. The departures were fewer by 216 persons, numbering 2,676 in the former as compared with 2,892 in 1863. The number of persons remaining in the Province was, therefore, 3,282, or 1,940 in excess of the addition in 1863, which only amounted to 1,342 souls, that number, however, being more than twice the annual addition during the preceding four years.

The total number of arrivals from the United Kingdom was 2,859; from British Colonies, 2,983; and from Foreign States, 116, as compared with 1,765, 2,417, and 52 respectively in 1863. The increase in the number of arrivals from the United Kingdom was, therefore, 1,094 persons; from British Colonies, 566; and from Foreign States, 64 persons; the departures to Great Britain and to British Colonies showing a considerable falling off, the whole number leaving during 1864 being 2,676 persons only, or, with the exception of 1861, less than in any year since 1850.

Eight Government immigrant vessels arrived during the year, landing 2,647 souls, of whom 1,611 were of English, 245 of Scotch, and 791 of Irish nationality. The male immigrants exceeded the number of female immigrants by 271, the former num-

bering 1,459, and the latter 1,188 persons; in fact, during the two past years the number of male immigrants introduced at the public expense has considerably exceeded the number of the other sex, a subject referred to under the head "Population." Only four immigrant ships arrived during 1863, landing 1,499 souls, and two vessels in 1862, Government immigration having been gradually resumed since October of the latter year.

During the past decade 29,341 persons have been added to the community by the excess of arrivals over departures by sea, the assisted immigration during the same period amounting to 31,327 souls.

In the five years terminating with 1859, the number of Government immigrants introduced amounted to 23,650, whilst the addition to the population from immigration was 25,577 persons. In the last half of the decade, 1860–64, the increased population from this source was 5,691, although 5,750 persons were brought out at the expense of the State. In the former quinquennial period 649,593*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* was devoted to immigration expenses, and 99,370*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* during the latter.

Public Worship.

Twenty-four new places of worship were opened during the year, providing further accommodation for 2,782 persons, making the total number of churches and chapels within the Province to be 455, capable of seating 79,595 persons. In addition thereto, 7,621 persons could be accommodated in 180 rooms used for religious worship. The aggregate number of places of worship used during 1864 was 635, containing 87,216 sittings, sufficient to accommodate at one time three-fifths of the population, or every man, woman, and child of 14 years of age and upwards. Last year there was one place of worship to every 233 persons; the same extent of accommodation has been maintained. The progress effected during the past three years in this direction is evidenced in the following table:—

———	1862.	1863.	1864.
Number of churches or chapels -	410	431	455
„ sittings in ditto - -	72,816	76,813	79,595
„ rooms used, &c. - -	172	170	180
„ sittings in ditto - -	5,800	7,065	7,621
Total number of places of worship -	582	601	635
„ sittings provided -	78,616	83,878	87,216

It will also be observed that a marked increase has taken place in the number of, and attendance at, Sunday schools, as shown in the following statement, for a like period:—

—	1862.	1863.	1864.
Sunday schools - - -	359	360	382
Sunday-school teachers - -	2,840	3,017	3,254
Sunday scholars - - -	20,705	21,799	23,087

From the above it appears that 22 new schools have been opened; that there is an increase of 237 in the number of teachers, and of 1,288 in the number of Sunday scholars. About one-half of the children of the ages from five to fifteen years would seem from these returns to attend a Sunday school, and that there is one teacher to every seven scholars. The number of male teachers is stated to be 1,652, and of female teachers 1,602; whilst the scholars of the former sex are represented to be 11,365, and 11,722 of the latter.

Education.

Twenty-nine new schools were licensed by the Central Board of Education during 1864, but nine licenses being discontinued or withdrawn, the additional number in operation throughout the year was 20 only, showing an increase of 8 per cent. on the number last year.

The aggregate number in operation was 267, superintended by 174 schoolmasters and 93 schoolmistresses. The total number of scholars was 12,959, of whom 7,046 were boys and 5,913 girls; or 54·4 per cent. of the former and 45·6 per cent. of the latter sex,

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

being nearly the same proportion as last year. The average number of scholars on the roll at each licensed school was the same as in former years, viz., 48·5, and the average attendance 38·5. Four-fifths of the whole number of scholars were in attendance at schools in the country districts. The average number attending town schools was 70, and 45·6 at country schools. The average attendance was 10,293 scholars, being 79·5 per cent. of the number on the roll, or two per cent. higher than in the previous year.

With respect to the ages of children receiving instruction at licensed schools it is stated that 36 per cent. are under seven years of age, 57 per cent. are from seven to 12 years old, and only six per cent. are above 12 years of age.

Three additional district schoolhouses were completed during the year, making the total number erected to date 56, all held in trust for educational purposes. The total amount of aid rendered by Government to their erection, by supplementing private subscriptions, has been 10,595*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*

The expenditure defrayed by the Board in the payment of stipends to licensed teachers, amounted to 12,914*l.*, giving an average sum for each scholar of 19*s.* 11*d.* The amount of school fees received by the teachers from the parents, &c. of scholars was 12,555*l.* 10*s.*, making 21*s.* for each scholar. A further sum of 1,006*l.* 13*s.* was paid to teachers for the instruction of destitute children and orphans, the average cost for each child being 2*l.* This is exclusive of the cost of the Adelaide free school in connexion with the Destitute Asylum, the average cost of each scholar attending thereat being 4*l.* 10*s.* Each licensed school costs the State on an average 57*l.* 18*s.*, expenses of inspection, &c. included.

During the past ten years the Government have devoted 151,439*l.* to the cause of education generally, or on the average 12,620*l.* annually; the sum of 18,388*l.* having been spent, however, during the past year.

Charitable Institutions.

The number of admissions into the Adelaide Hospital during 1864 was 952, or 12 less than in the previous year. A greater number of male patients and a lesser number of female patients were treated than during 1863. Of the former sex 667 were treated as against 640, and of the latter 385 as compared with 443. Of the total number under treatment, 79 terminated fatally; 858 patients were discharged either cured or relieved, leaving 115 in the establishment at the close of the year, 15 more (males) than at the commencement. The daily average number in the hospital was 118; 75 males and 43 females. Their average stay in acute diseases was 17 days; and in chronic cases the average duration was 88 days in the case of males and 76 days in that of females. An improved method of classifying the various diseases under treatment has been introduced, and is identical with the nosological table now adopted in the registration of deaths.

The Lunatic Asylum at Adelaide being the only institution of the kind in the Province, its records afford a criterion of the amount of lunacy prevalent, as cases are promptly forwarded thereto from all parts of the country. The number of inmates on the 31st December 1864 was 199; 111 males and 88 females, as compared with 191 on the same day in the preceding year. Out of 266 patients under treatment 46 were discharged, cured or relieved, and 21 died in the asylum. The daily average number of inmates was 111 males and 83 females. The number of admissions was, however, only 75 during the year, as against 83 in that previous, all but 10 being admitted without payment of fees. It is satisfactory to note that, notwithstanding the additional population, and the increased facilities for admission of patients, and improved regulations for treatment under the new law, the admissions during 1864 were below the average of the preceding five years.

None but the aged and infirm, the sick, and orphan or deserted children, are admitted into the Destitute Asylum, the inmates of which institution averaged 146 (81 males and 65 females), of whom 63 were children, against 129 last year. Although more numerous than in the previous few years, the number of inmates was below the average of the preceding quinquennial period. Out-door relief was administered during 1864 to 422 persons throughout the Colony, or to three less than during the preceding year; 31 adult males received relief on medical certificate, and many of the female adults were relieved from the same cause. The remaining recipients were children, of whom there were no fewer than 356 receiving state support, necessitated by the death of the head of the family or by desertion.

The Government defray the whole of the cost of these institutions, which would doubtless be greater but for the large amount of medical and pecuniary assistance afforded through the numerous friendly societies existing. The total sum paid during the past

ten years, exclusive of cost of buildings, has been 160,411*l.* The cost during 1864 amounted to 18,037*l.*, of which the sum of 6,572*l.* was on account of the medical and hospital departments, 5,151*l.* on account of the lunatic asylum, and 6,314*l.* expenses connected with the relief of the destitute poor.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The financial returns for the year under review are of a very satisfactory nature, the revenue for 1864 being 23 per cent. in advance of that for 1863, and the expenditure a few thousand pounds less.

The account in either year was as follows:—Receipts in 1864, 775,837*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*; in 1863, 631,700*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*; increase, 144,137*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* Payments in 1864, 626,688*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*, and in 1863, 635,205*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*; decrease, 8,516*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* The principal increase appears in the ordinary revenue, which amounted in 1864 to 512,591*l.*, as compared with 394,538*l.* in the previous year, showing an increase of 30 per cent.

The Land Fund amounted to 263,246*l.*, as compared with 237,162*l.*, or an addition of 26,084*l.* or only 11 per cent.

The revenue from Customs (the only source of taxation) amounted to 203,349*l.*, being at the rate of 1*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* per head of the population—a burden very much below that borne by any other Australian community.

The total expenditure in connexion with public works was 248,004*l.*; of which sum 136,675*l.* was defrayed out of the public revenue on works and buildings, and 92,643*l.* from the same source in the redemption of bonds and the payment of interest; the sum expended from the Public Works Loan Fund amounting to 18,686*l.* only.

It appears that during the 10 years ending December 1864, more than *half a million* sterling has been expended out of the *ordinary* revenue upon public works and immigration, in addition to the departmental charges connected therewith, which amount to a large sum. The Land Fund receipts have thus been supplemented out of the ordinary revenue, by nearly *one-fourth*, as against 16 per cent. during the decennial period terminating in 1863, and six per cent. in that closing with 1862.

The land sales alone would have provided, during this period, little more than three-fourths of the sum that has actually been spent on public works and immigration.

Following is a statement showing the amounts for the decennial period ending 31st December 1864 to have been expended as follows, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
To defray the cost of Public Works - - - -	1,622,213	17	10
,, interest and redemption of loans for Public Works -	617,847	18	0
,, immigration - - - - -	748,964	11	6
Total expenditure on Public Works and Immigration -	2,989,026	7	4
Amount of Land Fund receipts - - -	2,420,868	9	5
Deficiency of Land Fund receipts - -	568,157	17	11

It would appear, therefore, that during the past 10 years a far larger sum has been devoted to the opening up of the country and the introduction of labour than the requirements of the law at present in force demand; namely, that two-thirds of the receipts from the sale of lands be appropriated to the former object, and one-third to the latter.

Loans for Public Works.

The public debt was reduced during the year by 27,550*l.*, leaving the amount on the 31st December 1864 at 839,300*l.* The total sum borrowed on these loans, which have been raised exclusively for the carrying out of public works in aid of sums expended from the general revenue, amounts to 1,068,900*l.*, of which 229,600*l.* has been paid off, leaving unredeemed the amount above stated.

Provision is made for the liquidation of the present debt during the course of the ensuing 27 years.

The public indebtedness amounts to 5*l.* 14*s.* per head of the population—about one-half less than that of either of our neighbours; whilst the average liability for interest and sinking fund during the next 20 years, as at present authorized, only amounts to 8*s.* 9*d.* per head in any single year.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Banking.

Five banks carried on business in Adelaide during 1864, and their operations were further extended by the opening of several new branches and agencies throughout the country districts. The increase in wealth and the soundness of the financial position of traders will be manifest on a comparison of the following statements of the aggregate assets and liabilities of the several banks for the three half years ending December, 1862, 1863, and 1864, respectively :—

LIABILITIES.

	1862.	1863.	1864.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Notes in circulation - - - -	228,766 7 8	232,481 18 9	315,126 6 8
Bills in circulation - - - -	9,851 7 4	7,832 7 8	12,700 9 9
Balances due to other banks - - -	17,171 12 8	24,904 5 0	11,715 2 4
Deposits - - - - - -	703,035 11 3	787,104 2 11	1,158,931 11 11
Total average Liabilities - -	958,824 18 11	1,052,322 14 4	1,498,473 10 8

ASSETS.

	1862.	1863.	1864.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coin and bullion - - - - -	270,433 13 7	326,875 11 8	411,710 3 0
Government securities - - - -	4,600 0 0	4,600 0 0	4,600 0 0
Landed property and bank premises - -	56,461 1 11	55,185 11 10	60,808 18 11
Notes and bills of other banks - - -	9,268 15 2	7,170 3 10	8,109 9 4
Balances due from other banks - - -	47,244 0 0	82,561 5 9	151,312 15 1
Notes and bills discounted, and other debts due to banks not enumerated - - - -	1,542,906 19 0	1,603,564 12 11	1,724,759 5 4
Total average Assets - - -	1,930,914 9 8	2,079,957 6 0	2,361,300 11 8

The usual returns, showing the rates of interest allowed by the banks during the year, the course of exchange in each quarter, and a comparative statement of the bullion held, and note circulation, will be found in their usual places under the above heading.

Savings Bank.

Very large increases are apparent in the several items of the savings bank return, showing a very healthy state to exist amongst the working classes, the chief supporters of this institution. Taking the figures for five years, as given below, it will be observed, that the number of depositors has more than doubled during that period, and that the amount deposited annually has increased to the like extent; whilst the amount to the credit of the depositors is nearly three-fold that to their credit in 1860.

	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.
New accounts opened (number) - -	893	1,081	1,264	1,440	1,806
Increase in depositors (number) - -	367	681	629	834	1,132
	£	£	£	£	£
Amount deposited - - - -	52,293	65,373	79,482	91,783	120,924
„ withdrawn - - - -	38,168	37,627	54,495	63,393	87,731
„ depositors' balances - - -	88,889	121,414	152,663	189,143	231,972
„ reserve funds - - -	9,126	10,175	10,842	12,062	13,431
„ total funds - - - -	99,016	131,590	163,506	201,205	245,403

The funds of the depositors, on which interest is allowed at the rate of five per cent. per annum, are invested in Government securities of the value of 11,600*l.*, by bank deposits, and by loans on mortgage to the extent of 138,371*l.* sterling.

Imports and Exports.

In no previous year have the Customs returns exhibited so great an advancement in trade and commerce as in those of 1864, which year, for all connected with those pur-

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

suits, was one of unparalleled prosperity. In a single year the external commerce of the Colony increased at the rate of *thirty* per cent.—the combined import and export trade amounting, during 1864, to 5,718,476*l.*, as against 4,387,096*l.* during the previous year, showing an increase of 1,331,380*l.* sterling in the twelvemonth's operations. The year 1863 showed an increase over its predecessor of 420,644*l.*, or *ten* per cent.; or only one-third of the increase witnessed by its successor.

The value of the goods imported amounted to 2,412,931*l.*, showing an increase of 384,652*l.* over that of the previous year, or 19 per cent.; whilst the total exports amounted to 3,305,545*l.*, or nearly a million sterling (946,728*l.*) over those of 1863, being an addition of *forty* per cent.

As indicative of the enhanced purchasing power of the community, it may be mentioned that the goods retained for home consumption were valued at 2,122,923*l.*, or 20 per cent. above that of the previous year, showing the sum paid by the inhabitants for imported goods to be at the rate of 14*l.* 8*s.* per head of the whole community.

Nearly the whole of our exports consist of staple produce, the raw material of the Colony. In fact, ten-elevenths of the total exports during 1864, or over *three millions* sterling, were of this description; comparatively little business being done with the other Colonies in imported goods, the whole of the imports re-exported during the year amounting to 290,008*l.*, an increase, however, of 26,547*l.* on the previous year.

A large foreign demand, at remunerative prices, having ruled for most descriptions of produce, especially agricultural, of which there was an abundant supply, induced an unexampled export trade, amounting to 3,015,537*l.*, being an increase of 920,181*l.*, or 45 per cent., or nearly six times the increase in the preceding year.

The produce exported during the year was valued at 42 per cent. more than the imported goods purchased for home consumption; the figures being 3,015,537*l.* and 2,122,923*l.* respectively, showing a difference of 892,614*l.* in favour of exports. Notwithstanding the large extent to which foreign goods are purchased, as before pointed out, it is significant to note that so large a balance as nine-tenths of a million should be added in a single year to the wealth of comparatively so small a number of individuals.

With the United Kingdom our business relations were only slightly in excess of those of 1863, amounting to 2,136,091*l.*, of which the imports were valued at 1,217,568*l.*, and the exports direct at 918,523*l.*; the former exceeding the latter by 299,045*l.*, as against 241,826*l.* in the previous year. The balance of trade with the mother country is of course in favour of the Colony, although not so shown in the returns, as very large shipments of minerals and wool appear therein as exported to the other Colonies, being, in fact, only sent there at certain seasons for transhipment to Great Britain. It is important to bear in mind that South Australia is a consumer of British goods imported *direct* (to say nothing of the quantity reaching it by way to Melbourne) to the extent of 8*l.* 5*s.* for every man, woman, and child in the community.

The chief increase in commerce was in the intercolonial business, our trade with Victoria having increased most prominently. In 1863 the combined trade with that Colony amounted to 999,928*l.*; at the close of 1864 it had reached 1,951,729*l.*, or nearly one million sterling additional. The principal increase is in the export trade, although the importations thence have been largely added to.

In 1863 our shipments amounted to 558,001*l.*, and our imports to 441,927*l.* In 1864 the former reached 1,254,654*l.*, and the latter 697,075*l.*, showing an increase in the imports of 255,148*l.*, or 58 per cent., and in the shipments of 696,653*l.*, or 125 per cent. The balance of trade was in our favour in 1863 to the amount of 116,074*l.*, and last year to the extent of 557,578*l.* sterling.

Coin of the value of 260,142*l.* was brought into this Province chiefly from Victoria during the 12 months; the balance retained in the Colony up to 31st December being 216,519*l.* sterling, or 161,519*l.* more than was retained during the preceding year.

New South Wales, ranking second to Victoria in importance as consumers of South Australian produce, also shows a very considerable increase in the operations of 1864, the combined import and export trade amounting to 844,644*l.*, as compared with 484,061*l.* in the previous year, or an addition of nearly 80 per cent. The exports hence being nearly double, viz., 632,127*l.*; and the imports being 212,517*l.*, as against 146,583*l.*, showing a balance of trade in our favour of 419,609*l.*, as compared with 190,895*l.* in the year preceding.

The New Zealand trade, which is almost entirely one of export, amounted to 184,045*l.*, as against 153,062*l.* in 1863, an increase of 30,983*l.* With Queensland also a large increase in the amount of our exports appears, that Colony taking produce of the value of 86,257*l.*, as against 31,679*l.* in the previous year. On the other hand, with

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Western Australia and Tasmania, trade has declined. The business done, however, has always been small; the imports during 1864 from the two places only amounted to 24,350*l.*, and the exports to 17,447*l.* Again, with Mauritius, trade was less active, the imports thence only amounting to 131,733*l.*, or 12,497*l.* less than in 1863; while our shipments thereto have been reduced from 27,664*l.* to 21,364*l.* With the Cape, likewise, our shipments fell off from 81,406*l.* to 5,490*l.*, owing to the high rates ruling nearer home.

The exports to India—principally fine copper—amounted to 122,333*l.*, as compared with 208,000*l.* The imports are almost nominal. Hongkong took produce, flour, &c. of the value of 10,450*l*; Batavia, to the extent of 16,270*l.*; Bourbon, 3,531*l.*; and the Brazils, 33,054*l.* worth of wool and copper.

With other foreign countries, trade is almost exclusively confined to imports thence, having received goods from California to the value of 2,050*l.*; China, 76,804*l.*; Hamburg, 7,513*l.*; Sweden, 11,744*l.*; and the United States, 21,080*l.*, without any exports direct in return.

Many additional particulars respecting commercial progress can be obtained from the voluminous tables supplied by the Collector of Customs.

Exports, the Produce of the Colony.

Statements regarding the development of the various interests of the Province, based solely on a comparison of one year with another being in many instances calculated to mislead, an inquirer into their relative progress should review the transactions extending over a number of years, for which purpose decennial tables are inserted. Where, as in this country, industrial pursuits are especially liable to periodic and uncertain influences, either for their rapid progression or retardment, it is only by a comparison of the results of an extended period that reliable information can be obtained. With this view I continue to supply a system of tables by which the average results may be shown as closely as possible from a review of the operations at the beginning, middle, and termination of a decade, the same information in quinquennial periods, and the average annual transactions in such periods.

In the following table will be found the total value of the exports of Colonial produce, and of the three principal articles, in the years 1855, 1859, and 1864 respectively; together with the total value of the shipments made during the quinquennial periods ending in 1859 and 1864; also the average yearly exports in those periods, and the proportion which each of the shipments of agricultural, pastoral, and mineral produce bore to the total exports:—

Period.	Total Exports of Produce.	Of which Exports.			
		Breadstuffs, Grain, &c.	Wool.	Copper and other Minerals.	Miscellaneous Products.
	£	£	£	£	£
In the year 1855 - -	686,953	236,400	283,479	155,557	11,517
„ 1859 - -	1,502,165	554,265	484,977	411,018	51,905
„ 1864 - -	3,015,537	1,464,593	775,656	691,624	83,664
Total in five years, 1855–59 -	6,686,710	2,628,274	2,105,972	1,806,738	145,726
„ 1860–64 -	10,446,346	4,056,841	3,323,236	2,680,345	385,924
Average of five years, 1855–59 -	1,337,342	525,655	421,194	361,347	29,146
„ 1860–64 -	2,089,269	811,368	664,647	556,069	77,185
Rate per cent. of average exports of 1855–59 - - -	100·	39·3	31·5	27·1	2·1
Rate per cent. of average exports of 1860-64 - - -	100·	38·8	31·8	25·7	3·7

The immense progress the Colony has made during the past 10 years is very clearly shown in the above statement. In that period produce has been exported of the value of over 17 millions sterling; and, during the latter half of the period, the exports amounted to 10½ millions, as compared with six and three-quarter millions in the preceding five years, showing an increase of one-third, or three and three-quarter millions nearly. The *average* of the quinquennial period ending 1859 was 1,337,342*l.* per annum, and during that ended in 1864 2,089,269*l.* annually. In 1855 our exports

of produce amounted to 686,953*l.*; in 1859, to 1,502,165*l.*; and in the year just closed they reached 3,015,537*l.*—an advance of one hundred per cent. during the last five years. In 1855 the exports of produce averaged 8*l.* per head of the population; in 1859, 12*l.* 3*s.* per head; and last year, at the rate of 20*l.* 9*s.* per head of a population numbering about 150,000 souls.

In my last report I mentioned that, taking the physical strength of the people into account, represented in South Australia by one-third of the whole population—namely, the males of fourteen years of age and upwards—it appeared that in 1863 we were able, after providing for our own necessities (in themselves greater than in the neighbouring Colonies, as we support, in proportion, a greater number of women and children), to export a surplus equivalent to 45*l.* per man; the other Colonies exporting (inclusive of gold) at a rate of less than 40*l.* per man. A similar calculation for the past year shows that South Australia, in 1864, was enabled to ship surplus produce in the whole equal to *sixty pounds sterling* per head for each male of fourteen years of age and upwards resident in the province.

Agricultural, pastoral, and mineral produce formed, as usual, the great bulk of the year's exports, and wool and copper were shipped in quantities of nearly equal value; but the breadstuffs exported were worth as much as the pastoral and mineral produce put together. This was, however, the result of exceptional circumstances, the value of cereal produce usually averaging from ten to fifteen per cent. higher than those of the other two staples; in fact, comparing the average yearly exports of each class during the past five years with the averages for the preceding similar period, it will be found that the shipments by agriculturists bore a less percentage to the value of the total exports during 1860–64 than in the years 1855–59. For instance, in the two periods breadstuffs, &c., have decreased from 39·3 per cent. to 38·8 per cent. of the total exports of produce, minerals, from 27·1 to 25·7 per cent.; and on the other hand, wool has increased from 31·5 to 31·8 per cent., and miscellaneous products from 2·1 to 3·7 per cent. By adopting this method of comparison from year to year, a more correct view of the relative progress of the country's principal industries is placed before us than by adopting a shorter period as the basis of comparison. The following table has been prepared and inserted with the view of illustrating the system:—

Five Years ending with	Ratio of Average of Five Years' Exports of each Class to total Exports = 100.			
	Breadstuffs.	Wool.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
1855 - -	32·3	28·4	32·9	6·4
1856 - -	37·1	29·0	28·5	5·4
1857 - -	40·4	30·8	24·6	4·2
1858 - -	40·6	30·7	25·4	3·3
1859 - -	39·3	31·5	27·1	2·1
1860 - -	38·2	31·6	27·6	2·6
1861 - -	38·0	32·5	26·7	2·8
1862 - -	35·5	33·4	27·2	3·9
1863 - -	35·2	33·9	27·0	3·9
1864 - -	38·8	31·8	25·7	3·7

From a careful review of the above statement, much useful information may be gathered; whilst a cursory glance shows how steadily and equably have the three great interests of South Australia progressed side by side during the past ten years, notwithstanding temporary checks occasionally sustained by either.

Breadstuffs, Grain, &c.

Upon the publication of the agricultural statistics of the several Australian Colonies for 1863-4, it was found that although in South Australia the harvest was the most prolific on record, those of New South Wales and Victoria proved to be almost total failures; consequently prices of all descriptions of cereals rapidly advanced, and a considerable demand set in for our surplus breadstuffs, of which an unprecedented quantity was exported during the twelve months, the value thereof amounting to 1,464,593*l.*, an increase of 717,477*l.* upon the previous year, or more than cent. per cent.

The *quantity* of wheat and flour shipped during 1864 was together 76,552 tons or 16,118 tons more than in 1863—41,817 tons being exported in the shape of flour, and the

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

remainder in grain, 1,563,080 bushels, or an increase of 630,808 bushels over the previous year. In 1860, our exports of breadstuffs were only 26,476 tons, or about 500 tons a-week; in 1862, they had doubled, or amounted to 51,092 tons, or nearly 1,000 tons a week; and in 1864 they reached 76,552 tons, or nearly 1,500 tons per week, being thrice the weekly quantity shipped ten years ago.

The yearly shipments of flour and wheat during the last five years have *averaged* twice those of the preceding like period; whilst the cereal exports for the year 1864 were thirteen times greater than those of 1855. Subjoined is a tabular statement showing the several particulars:—

Period.	Flour.	Wheat.	Total in Flour, at 45 bushels to ton.	Bran and Pollard.
	Tons.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
In the year 1855	5,759	8,456	5,947	1,863
„ 1859	19,350	292,736	25,855	4,330
„ 1864	41,817	1,563,080	76,552	8,209
Total in five years, 1855–59	103,566	857,792	122,628	20,751
„ 1860–64	171,320	4,105,456	262,552	30,468
Average of five years, 1855–59	20,713	171,558	24,525	4,150
„ 1860–64	34,264	821,091	52,510	6,093

It will be observed that the increase in *quantity* exported over that of 1863, was 16,118 tons, or 26·6 per cent.—whilst the augmented value is returned as 717,477*l.*, or 96 per cent.; this is explained by the high rates obtained in 1864, when the price of wheat averaged 8*s.* 6*d.* per bushel, and flour 20*l.* 9*s.* per ton, throughout the year, the average prices ruling during 1863, being 4*s.* 10*d.* per bushel for wheat, and 12*l.* per ton for flour. So great an advance in the value of a single article of export, combined with the largely increased production, naturally had a very encouraging effect on producers; and, whilst accelerating the progress of agriculture, greatly promoted the development of other industries by the introduction of a considerable amount of capital.

Victoria was the largest consumer of South Australian produce; in 1864, taking 16,537 tons of flour and 104,146 quarters of wheat, as compared with 9,392 tons of the former and 25,061 quarters of the latter in the preceding year. New South Wales, which in former years had taken the greatest quantity, ranked second, receiving 15,532 tons of flour and 63,136 quarters of wheat, as against 13,772 tons and 47,373 quarters, in 1863. Queensland took 3,481 tons, as compared with 2,375 tons the year before. Smaller quantities than usual were shipped to foreign ports, owing to the more favourable market nearer to hand.

Minerals.

Mineral produce was exported to the value of 691,624*l.* during the past year—showing an increase of 149,231*l.* on the value of that shipped in 1863. As exhibiting the immense development of the mines of South Australia it is only necessary to state, that during the past ten years minerals worth four and a half millions sterling have been sent away; and that last year's production was fourfold greater than that of 1855. In the latter year, the exports of mining produce only, amounted to 155,557*l.*; in 1859, they reached 411,018*l.*, whilst the production of 1864 was valued at 691,624*l.* A comparison of the quantities would show a still more favourable progression, particulars for which are afforded in the annexed table:—

Periods.	Copper.	Lead.	Copper Ore.	Lead Ore.	Regulus.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
In the year 1855	12,255	16	4,039	144	63
„ 1859	56,745	1,261	7,306	262	141
„ 1864	134,055	63	4,545	566	52
Total in five years, 1855–59	218,669	1,277	35,546	2,716	508
„ 1860–64	442,442	3,840	31,018	1,198	1,237
Average of five years, 1855–59	43,734	255	7,109	543	101
„ 1860–64	88,488	768	6,204	240	247

From the above it appears that the production of fine copper has increased from 612 tons in 1855, to 6,702 tons in 1864—an elevenfold increase. The shipment of fine copper alone, during 1864, amounted to 130 tons per week, as against 92 tons in the previous year. By far the greater part of the copper ore raised being now smelted in the Colony, the export of this article has gradually declined, 4,545 tons only being shipped in 1864.

The following table shows the quantities and values of the different minerals shipped during the past five years :—

Mineral.		1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.
Fine copper	cwts.	65,429	61,047	85,872	96,039	134,055
	£	331,775	294,572	400,591	447,944	637,791
Copper ore	tons.	7,097	7,817	6,216	5,343	4,545
	£	89,130	133,749	124,263	83,262	38,125
Lead	cwts.	1,824	1,256	426	271	63
	£	8,275	4,426	981	525	121
Lead ore	tons.	68	15	97	450	567
	£	2,480	300	2,266	9,007	13,107
Regulus	tons.	338	390	418	39	52
	£	14,877	19,125	19,518	1,655	2,480
Total value	£	446,537	452,172	547,619	542,393	691,624

Although Great Britain and India are the principal markets for fine copper, the returns show very large shipments to Victoria, of course for transhipment. The shipments direct for Great Britain amounted to 50,492 cwts. against 21,088 cwts. in 1863; to India 23,479 cwts. as compared with 39,861 cwts.; and to Victoria the exports have increased, during the twelve months, from 35,050 cwts to 56,318 cwts. Nearly all the copper ore and other mineral produce is sent direct to Great Britain. The extraordinary productiveness of some of our mines, and the immense area over which minerals are found deposited has induced the employment of considerable capital and much labour, giving during the past few years a marked impetus to the development of other industries.

Wool.

During 1864 the number of bales of wood shipped amounted to 50,946, being an increase on the previous year's shipments of 2,720 bales only, the addition during the preceding twelve months having amounted to 5,523 bales. The total weight of the South Australian clip of 1864 was 16,092,095 lbs., as compared with 15,566,787lbs. in 1863, and 13,229,009 lbs. the year before; the value in those years being 775,656*l*., 715,935*l*., and 635,270*l*., respectively. The augmented weight of the 1864 clip was 525,308 lbs., or 3½ per cent.; in 1863, the increase was 2,337,778 lbs., or 18 per cent. This falling off was occasioned by a reduction in the shipments from Ports Augusta and Wakefield of nearly one-half—the first fruits of the drought—and would have had a serious effect on the total export, had not the deficiency been met by increased shipments from other ports. To show the result, it may be stated that had the shipments from the Northern ports increased in the same ratio as those from the other ports of the province, the additional quantity of wool exported would have amounted to thirty per cent., instead of only to three and a half. The shipments at Port Adelaide, which may possibly include some of the Northern wool, were 16 per cent. above those of 1863; whilst the exports from the South-eastern district were no less than 116 per cent. greater.

The following table affords the necessary particulars for further inquiries into the subject :—

	1862.	1863.	1864.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
From Port Adelaide	7,162,032	7,321,137	8,472,298
Port Wakefield	2,041,550	2,799,000	1,774,300
Port Robe	1,758,980	1,218,400	2,077,300
Port Augusta	2,180,354	4,128,641	2,990,403
Port MacDonnell	42,593	39,309	771,656
Port Wallaroo	43,500	60,300	—
Port Victor	—	—	6,138
Total Export of South Australian Wool	13,229,009	15,566,787	16,092,095
Produce of other Colonies	1,268,235	1,002,192	1,404,456
Total shipment (lbs.)	14,497,244	16,568,979	17,496,551
Total shipment (bales)	42,703	48,226	50,946
	£	£	£
Total Value of South Australian Wool	635,270	715,935	775,656
Total Value of other Wool	74,969	60,610	73,469
Total Value	710,239	776,545	849,125

It will be seen that, besides our own clip, we exported Murray-borne and West Australian wool of 1,404,456 lbs. weight and 73,469*l.* value, showing a slight increase over the previous year.

Although the exports of pastoral produce do not show so great an advancement in 1864 as in former years, it is satisfactory to find that the value of the clip is stated to be three-quarters of a million sterling as compared with one-quarter of a million in 1855. During the past decade the gross value of South Australian wool exported amounted to 5,429,208*l.* the first five years of that period giving 2,105,972*l.*, and the last five years 3,323,236*l.* of the total amount. Between the years 1855–59 the annual clip averaged 421,194*l.*, whilst during the last five years the average annual value was 664,647*l.*, showing a difference of fifty-eight per cent. Further information is given in the subjoined statement:—

Period.	Quantity.	Value.		
	lbs.	£	*s.*	*d.*
In the year 1855	5,590,171	283,479	0	0
„ 1859	9,496,715	484,977	0	0
„ 1864	16,092,095	775,656	0	0
Total in five years, 1855–59	40,793,535	2,105,972	0	0
„ 1860–64	69,783,653	3,323,236	0	0
Average of five years, 1855–59	8,158,707	421,194	0	0
„ 1860–64	13,956,730	664,647	0	0

The above table furthermore shows that the quantity of wool shipped in 1855 was 5,590,171 lbs., and that in 1859 it had advanced to 9,496,715 lbs., showing an increase of seventy per cent. during the five years. It is important to notice that, notwithstanding the falling off in last year's shipment as compared with the increase in the years immediately preceding, the progress made during the last five years has equalled that of the quinquennial period ending with 1859—the annual clip now reaching 16,092,095 lbs., or seventy per cent. more than in the last-mentioned year, being the same rate of increase as shown during the five years previous to that date.

River Murray Trade.

Steady, if not rapid, progress is apparent in the river trade. The combined imports and exports river-borne now amount to 180,000*l.* per annum, or thirty-two per cent. advance on the trade of 1863. Even with the Victoria side of the river a three-fold increase appears, and although very small in amount, it shows that, notwithstanding the exertions used to divert the traffic from its legitimate course, that branch of the river trade will progress with increased facilities. New South Wales took from us goods of the value of 105,281*l.*, as compared with 76,054*l.* last year, and sent down the river 75,374*l.* worth of produce, mostly wool, for shipment. The number of steamers arriving at South

Australian ports from up-river was twenty-two, as against thirteen last year, and the departures numbered twenty-six, or seven more than the year before. An examination of the Customs returns will afford much interesting information as to the description of trade with the settlers in Riverina, and the considerable importance it promises to attain.

Shipping.

The activity of trade during 1864 may be judged of from the very great increase in the number and tonnage of shipping employed. For instance, in 1863, 446 vessels of a total capacity of 127,826 tons, sufficed for carrying on our external trade, whilst, in 1864, no less than 619 vessels, of 161,293 total tonnage, were required. The principal increase was in the intercolonial trade, as will be seen from the following tables, which show with whom our external commerce is principally carried on.

Ships.		Countries.	Tonnage.	
1863.	1864.		1863.	1864.
57	59	Great Britain	28,265	29,948
164	260	Victoria	35,954	56,111
110	175	New South Wales	30,903	45,535
34	49	Tasmania	4,427	5,684
2	3	Queensland	368	571
17	17	Western Australia	6,253	5,246
8	15	New Zealand	2,873	3,234
5	3	Cape of Good Hope	1,444	1,028
3	1	India	1,604	472
20	15	Mauritius	4,368	3,370
—	1	Bourbon	—	369
2	1	Hongkong	1,575	216
1	—	Vancouver's Island	1,152	—
9	7	Sweden	5,331	3,671
1	1	Hamburg	120	188
2	7	United States	1,521	3,788
1	—	Batavia	352	—
4	3	China	1,157	664
440	617	Total inwards	127,667	160,095

It appears from the above that vessels entering ports in South Australia during 1864 numbered 177 more than in 1863, of an augmented capacity of 32,428 tons.

Similar large additions to the clearances outwards also appear, and considering the immense increase in the production of raw material, the employment of this much larger number of vessels in the carrying trade must apparently become permanent. The following particulars regarding the clearances outwards, are similar to those given above with respect to vessels inwards :—

Ships.		Countries.	Tonnage.	
1863.	1864.		1863.	1864.
25	22	Great Britain	14,465	11,677
160	279	Victoria	34,469	59,473
93	139	New South Wales	24,873	38,008
13	21	Tasmania	1,570	2,617
54	60	New Zealand	13,739	14,119
11	20	Queensland	1,968	3,662
19	19	Western Australia	6,926	6,063
9	8	Mauritius	2,568	1,904
—	2	Bourbon	—	375
3	—	Singapore	1,623	—
24	21	India	13,717	12,188
25	2	Cape of Good Hope	7,315	560
3	6	Batavia	1,097	2,210
1	1	Brazils	327	281
2	6	Chili	676	3,045
4	—	Peru	2,493	—
—	3	Hongkong	—	895
—	10	Guam	—	3,856
446	619	Total outwards	127,826	161,293

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Out of the above 619 vessels, 557 sailed with cargoes, only 62, or 10 per cent. of the whole number, leaving in ballast.

With so large an increase in shipping, the number of vessels visiting the outports has, of course, been greatly augmented. The following table, showing the number of vessels arriving at and departing from the several ports (of which there are eight in addition to Port Adelaide) at which cargo is landed and shipped, during the past two years, exhibits considerable development of trade thereat :—

Inwards.				Ports.	Outwards.			
Ships.		Tonnage.			Ships.		Tonnage.	
1863.	1864.	1863.	1864.		1863.	1864.	1863.	1864.
335	435	105,774	124,256	Port Adelaide - - -	341	448	107,333	128,373
1	5	298	479	Port Augusta - - -	5	6	2,496	3,035
8	11	1,539	1,681	Port Elliot - - -	18	13	3,403	1,943
24	38	1,717	4,751	Port Macdonnell - -	25	38	1,890	4,355
5	12	2,235	3,223	Port Robe - - - -	6	15	3,226	4,058
35	69	10,733	17,753	Port Wallaroo - - -	10	30	2,647	8,031
23	23	3,818	3,884	Port Willunga - - -	28	38	4,624	6,197
9	15	1,553	2,736	Port Yankalilla - - -	13	18	2,207	3,409
—	9	—	1,332	Port Victor - - -	—	13	—	1,943
440	617	127,667	160,095	Total - -	446	619	127,826	161,293

Besides the above, 26 vessels, of 4,090 tons, cleared at ports on the Murray, being engaged in the river trade.

The crews of vessels entering South Australian ports during 1864 numbered no less than 8,182 men. 94 vessels belong to Port Adelaide, of 12,942 tons register, an addition of 14 ships and 3,556 registered tonnage during the 12 months.

Land and Cultivation.

In March last I was enabled to publish summary tables, showing the yield of the harvest of 1864–5, and in the following May, presented my sixth Annual Report on the Agricultural and Live Stock Statistics, for the year ending 31st March 1865, extracts from which are reproduced, in order to place the important particulars therein furnished, side by side with the other subjects of more general interest referred to in this retrospect.

"The area of country and suburban land alienated from the Crown during the twelve months ended 31st December 1864, amounted to 225,171 acres, or 65,379 acres more than in the year 1863—bringing up the total area of purchased land to 2,893,814 acres, or 19·64 acres per head of the estimated population. At the commencement of 1864, the average for each individual of the population was nineteen acres.

"Two-thirds of the alienated land is returned as being in the occupation of freeholders, maintaining the proportion existing in the previous year. Twenty per cent., or one in every five acres of the purchased land is under cultivation, as was the case in 1863. It would appear, therefore, that the sale of land, large as it was, did not exceed the requirements of the agriculturist.

"Notwithstanding the large purchases of land for grazing purposes, it is important to note that the ratio of cultivated to untilled land is maintained as 1 to 4; and it will be observed that the per centage of increase in cultivation during the season under review is similar to the rate at which the land sales were augmented during the twelve months preceding.

"In comparison with the respective populations, there is five times more land under tillage in South Australia than in the adjoining Colonies—there being four acres for every man, woman, and child in the province, or twelve acres for every male of fourteen years of age and upwards. Seeing that, of this division of the population, only one-sixth are engaged in agricultural pursuits, it follows that an eighty-acre section can receive but little more than the continuous labour of one statute adult throughout the year.

"The total area of land under cultivation amounts to 587,775 acres, against 555,968 acres in the previous season, showing 31,807 acres additional, or five and three-quarters per cent.

"The acreage of the wheat crop amounted to 390,836 acres, or two-thirds of the total cultivated land. In 1863–4 there were 335,758 acres under wheat, or sixty per cent. of the tilled land; the increase this season has therefore amounted to six per cent. The total produce of the harvest was 4,252,949 bushels, compared with 4,691,919 bushels in the yield of the previous harvest; showing a decrease of 438,970 bushels—the average yield per acre being only eleven bushels as against fourteen bushels, and one bushel less than the average production of the past seven seasons.

"On one occasion only during that period has the harvest been less productive, namely, in the year 1859-60, when only 9 bushels 38 lbs. per acre were reaped. The yield for each season, and other particulars respecting the cultivation of wheat during the septennial period just closed, is given in the following table. It will be seen that, in that short space of time, the growth of wheat has more than doubled.

Season.	Acres cultivated.	Acres under Wheat.	Produce, Wheat.	Average per Acre.
			Bushels.	B. lbs.
1858–59 - - -	264,462	188,703	2,109,544	11 11
1859–60 - - - -	361,884	218,216	2,103,411	9 38
1860–61 - - - -	428,816	273,672	3,576,593	13 4
1861–62 - - - -	486,667	310,636	5,410,756	10 59
1862–63 - - - -	494,511	320,160	3,841,824	12 0
1863–64 - - - -	555,968	335,758	4,691,919	14 0
1864–65 - - - -	587,775	390,836	4,252,949	11 0

"Seven-eighths of the wheat crop was reaped by machine, the area hand-reaped being less than last year, notwithstanding the increased cultivation. Out of 390,836 acres, 339,518 acres were gathered by machine, being an increase of 57,021 acres secured in that manner, whilst the quantity reaped by manual labour only amounted to 51,095 acres altogether. One, if not the most important advantage our farmers possess over those of the sister Colonies is the expedition and economy with which their crops can be secured, owing to the successful working of the reaping machines now universally used on all but hilly land, permitting of the grain being reaped, winnowed, cleaned, and bagged on the harvest field, and removed into store ere the day is closed.

"The high prices ruling for wheat caused the farmers to look more particularly to their grain crop for profit, and had the effect of reducing the breadth of land laid down for hay by 9,020 acres, the total area sown being only 66,570 acres as compared with 75,590 acres the year before; and as the average yield was four cwt. less, viz., twenty-three cwt. as against twenty-seven cwt. per acre, the deficiency in the crop is very large, no less than 25,637 tons; the total quantity grown being 76,656 tons as against 102,293 tons in 1863–4, showing a falling off of one-fourth in the supply of this description of fodder.

"There were 12,585 acres of barley sown, or 1,395 acres less; the quantity reaped being 207,022 bushels, or 46,979 bushels less; the average yield per acre being as low as 16 bushels 22 lbs., or one bushel 36 lbs. under the yield of the previous season. The yield of oats was still worse, only 15 bushels to the acre, being 4 bushels 5 lbs. below that of 1863–4; the quantity grown was nearly the same in both seasons, 75,135 bushels, the area sown, however, having increased from 3,923 acres to 5,093 acres.

"An addition of 104 acres appears in the breadth of land under subsidiary crops, the items being as follows:—For green forage, wheat, &c., 812 acres; maize, 40 acres; sorghum, 130 acres; lucerne, 856 acres, and permanent artificial grasses, 841 acres, and 222 acres of minor crops, including among others, mangol wurzel, rye, peas, tobacco, hops, and flax—all reported as succeeding favourably on the small scale attempted.

"Fallow land is returned as 94,777 acres, or 15,400 acres less, the augmented area under wheat having doubtless fully taxed the energies of the farmers.

"One-tenth more land has been planted with vines, making the total area of our vineyards to be 6,364 acres. Nine years ago they covered only 753 acres. During the past five years the area has doubled. Up to last season the proportion of bearing vines to those not yet productive was nearly equal; the present returns show 4,596,009 vines in bearing, to 2,831,971 unproductive.

"Only a short period has to elapse before the whole of the extensive vineyards planted during the past few years will be in full bearing; so that the annual production of wine will be rapidly augmented. Already the figures are high, for the vintage of the present season cannot be estimated at less than 1,000,000 gallons. That of last year, for which the returns are given, yielded 798,647 gallons, or 192,282 gallons more than its prede-

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

cessor. It is important to notice that the quantity of wine now made is more than double that produced three years ago. The home consumption is doubtless large; but it would be satisfactory to find a demand in a foreign market, which at present has not been the case, the exports of the year amounting to 20,674 gallons only, or 7,031 gallons less than in 1863."

Pastoral Occupation.

"The live stock returns show an additional number of horses and sheep, but a large reduction in the number of cattle. Owing to the protracted drought in the far North, the police were unable to travel to collect the returns as usual; so that in two districts, the country north of Wilpena, the figures inserted in the accompanying tables are those given in February 1864, to which attention is called in a foot note.

"The number of horses is returned at 62,899, or 3,891 more than last year. 643 horses, valued at 10,955*l.*, were exported during the twelve months. As showing the importance of this trade, it may be stated that during the past five years 3,224 horses have been shipped, chiefly to India, of a total declared value of 69,748*l.* sterling.

"The total number of sheep depastured was 4,106,230, or 214,588 additional, showing an increase of only 5½ per cent. as compared with an increase in the previous season of 13⅓ per cent., and of 12½ per cent. the year before. During the twelve months, 186,526 sheep were exported overland to the neighbouring Colonies in excess of the imports, or 21,259 more than in 1863. The number travelling over the border during the first quarter of the current year, was 14,345, as compared with 59,029 during the same period last year. Two-thirds of the whole number of sheep are depastured within the limits of the proclaimed counties.

"The continued diminution in the number of cattle calls for serious attention. In each of the past seven years the returns show a decrease on the numbers of its predecessor, until the number now given is one-third less than the number returned in 1857. Then we depastured 310,460 head, now only 204,892 head. The falling off during the past season, as shown in the returns, is 21,274; but owing to the state of the far North, it is probable that the decrease is actually much greater, for, as the police state with regard both to cattle and sheep in that district, 'it is impossible to estimate the number that 'will survive the season.' Whatever the cause, it is plain that the number of cattle has diminished gradually and continually to an alarming extent during the past seven years."

Railways.

All the appliances of this department were severely taxed to meet the increased demands of both the goods and passenger traffic, induced by the abundant yield of the harvest of 1864. In either branch the augmented revenue amounted to one-fifth greater than that earned in 1863. The following is a comparative statement of the gross receipts and expenditure during the two years:—

	1863.	1864.	1863.	1864.
GROSS RECEIPTS.			£	£
Number of passengers	309,898	359,035	—	—
Passenger receipts	—	—	25,788	32,274
Tons of goods	200,831	255,928	—	—
Goods receipts	—	—	69,192	94,405
Other receipts	—	—	2,276	2,567
Total receipts £			97,256	129,246
GROSS EXPENDITURE.				
Management			1,600	1,540
Locomotive department			18,353	19,366
Maintenance of line			17,134	22,358
Other working expenses (including goods agency)			42,389	56,328
Total expenditure £			79,476	99,593

The subjoined abstract shows at a glance the progress of the railway system since its commencement. It comprises the net earnings (after deducting "goods agency" from either side of the account), the working expenses, the per centage they bore to the year's

net receipts, and the annual profits made, and returned into the Treasury in reduction of the sums paid as interest on the loans incurred for their construction :— SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Miles open.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Per-centage of Expenditure.	Profit.
		£	£		£
1856 - - -	7⅓	15,873	15,236	95·4	637
1857 - - -	24½	39,528	37,774	92·0	1,754
1858 - - -	32½	51,582	44,981	85·5	6,601
1859 - - -	32½	48,068	39,871	82·5	8,197
1860 - - -	45	55,588	43,636	78·5	11,952
1861 - - -	57	64,935	53,808	82·1	11,127
1862 - - -	57	67,483	54,400	80·7	13,083
1863 - - -	57	70,420	52,639	74·7	17,781
1864 - - -	57	95,490	65,837	69·0	29,653

It must be borne in mind that the balance of revenue over expenditure has been much reduced by the large sums paid out of the receipts for additional rolling stock, &c., usually placed to capital account; the profit, however, at present shown, yields two-thirds of the interest on the outlay, or four per cent. per annum.

Roads.

Very large sums having been expended by local bodies since 1857, in the formation of district roads—of which there is no return yet procurable—the total length of road communication within the Province cannot accurately be stated. The amount spent by Municipalities and District Councils upon public works, however, amounted to 383,546*l.* since the above date, about one moiety of which has been raised by direct local taxation, the remainder being defrayed from the general revenue.

Accurate returns are, however, furnished by the Central Road Board, from which it appears that since the commencement of the Board's operations 293 miles of main road have been metalled and completed. During the past ten years, 236 miles of main road have been metalled and the whole length maintained in repair, the Board's expenditure for that period amounting to 741,925*l.*, the whole sum being defrayed out of the general revenue of the Colony.

Postal Communication.

Additional postal accommodation was provided during 1864 by the establishment of 16 additional post offices, the extension of the length of mail routes by 171, and especially by the increase shown in the number of miles travelled by mails during the year, namely, 75,754 miles.

The total number of post offices open was 205, the several mail routes extending over 3,053 miles; the total distance travelled over by the mails being 733,526 miles. The following figures show the progress made during the last three years :—

—	1862.	1863.	1864.
Number of letters - - -	1,640,153	1,817,379	2,189,474
Number of newspapers - - -	1,136,023	1,254,893	1,457,914
Distance travelled by mails - -	553,890	657,772	733,526
	£	£	£
Income - - - - -	17,448	19,019	22,001
Expenditure - - - -	18,582	19,694	21,485

It will be seen that the income of the Post Office exceeds the expenditure, the subsidy for the English mail and branch services not included.

Forty money order offices in connexion with the Post Office and Telegraph Departments are now in successful operation, with a yearly increasing business, and are in correspondence with all the money order offices in the United Kingdom, the Australian Colonies, and New Zealand

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Telegraphs.

The commercial activity which distinguished the year under review necessarily affected the operation of this department to a considerable extent; the benefits arising from rapid communication between a body of producers, scattered over a great area, and their principal markets can scarcely be estimated, but the returns show how largely the facilities afforded by the telegraph have been availed of. Nearly one-fourth more messages were transmitted during 1864 than in the previous year, and the receipts of the department increased from 8,695*l.* to 11,341*l.*; 106,874 messages being transmitted as compared with 86,411 in 1863. There are now 41 telegraph stations in this Province, and 1,084 miles of wire in operation, in connexion with 67 offices in Victoria, 51 in New South Wales, and 21 in Queensland, linked together by a chain of telegraph wire 7,529 miles in length.

Meteorological.

Subjoined is an abstract of meteorological observations, recorded by the Honourable G. S. Kingston, Speaker, showing the rainfall at Adelaide, during the last six and twenty years, in each month and year; and the average fall in each month, calculated upon the amount gauged during the twenty-five years, commencing 1839 and terminating 1863:—

Year.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total for the Year.	Average fall, as shown by previous Observations.
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
1839 - - -	0·453	0·446	0·85	0·379	0·245	3·497*	2·128	4·767*	0·85	2·57*	3·31*	0·345	19·84	—
1840 - - -	0·335	2·01*	0·437	1·202	1·487	3·247*	1·9	2·939*	4·64*	1·9*	0·19	3·82*	24·107*	21·973
1841 - - -	0·45	0·35	0·81	3·57*	1·71	2·32	0·758	2·823*	2·045	0·94	0·47	1·71*	17·956	20·634
1842 - - -	0·37	0·71	1·015*	1·808	2·05	2·401	2·09	2·77*	1·931	2·633*	1·19	1·35*	20·318	20·555
1843 - - -	0·21	0·54	0·59	1·06	2·98*	1·72	3·307*	2·16	1·085	1·640	0·2	1·7*	17·192	19·883
1844 - - -	0·41	0·175	0·74	1·68	1·845	1·138	3·655*	2·115	2·34*	1·045	0·91	0·825	16·878	19·382
1845 - - -	0·134	0·32	0·28	0·53	2·63	3·695*	2·245	3·266*	1·95	1·165	1·28	1·335*	18·83	19·303
1846 - - -	0·14	2·32*	0·675	2·5*	3·58*	1·97	3·78*	2·64	2·59*	2·235*	2·95*	1·505*	26·885*	20·251
1847 - - -	0·17	0·03	1·608*	3·5*	2·37	7·8*	4·49*	1·77	2·335*	0·655	1·185	1·7*	27·613*	21·068
1848 - - -	0·00	0·0	0·965*	0·75	2·23	1·32	2·48	2·85*	3·19*	2·88*	2·415*	0·655	19·735	20·935
1849 - - -	0·00	0·285	0·61	2·29*	1·835	7·21*	4·03*	3·511*	2·423*	0·79	1·96*	0·5	25·444*	21·345
1850 - - -	4·00*	0·13	0·25	0·9	1·74	3·54*	1·09	1·27	2·154*	0·72	1·795*	1·685*	19·274	21·173
1851 - - -	0·123	0·15	0·952*	1·52	6·34*	3·34*	5·04*	5·36*	2·808*	1·2	3·55*	0·25	30·633*	21·9
1852 - - -	1·5*	0·4	0·03	2·17*	2·97*	3·06*	4·33*	6·24*	2·04	1·57	1·92*	1·11	27·34*	22·289
1853 - - -	0·405	0·675	0·328	6·78*	4·468*	2·67	2·408	2·495	3·453*	2·073*	0·42	0·82	26·995*	22·6
1854 - - -	0·103	0·03	1·05*	2·815*	1·525	1·158	2·566	2·548	0·711	1·737*	0·598	0·515	15·346	22·149
1855 - - -	0·04	1·28*	3·12*	1·1	3·093*	2·545	3·33*	1·876	3·413*	1·733*	0·575	1·045	23·145*	22·208
1856 - - -	0·875*	2·5*	0·598	3·655*	2·645	6·223*	1·573	1·868	1·655	2·475*	0·55	0·304	24·921*	22·358
1857 - - -	0·49	0·78*	3·825*	1·247	0·704	4·505*	1·86	3·315*	0·99	2·1*	1·315*	1·025	21·156	22·295
1858 - - -	0·86*	2·67*	0·23	1·33	4·145*	1·06	3·02*	1·683	2·016	0·635	2·165*	1·708*	21·522	22·256
1859 - - -	0·34	1·16*	0·0	0·735	4·67*	2·075	0·75	1·733	0·671	1·455	0·753	0·51	14·842	21·903
1860 - - -	0·175	0·0	2·105*	4·405*	2·456	3·628*	1·408	0·765	1·662	1·445	0·873	0·748	19·67	21·804
1861 - - -	0·49	0·58	1·46*	2·005*	4·253*	1·941	4·163*	1·168	2·43*	1·825*	0·583	4·235*	25·133*	21·955
1862 - - -	0·275	0·78*	0·39	1·611	5·15*	1·81	5·405*	3·338*	1·755	1·165	0·759	0·155	22·593*	21·981
1863 - - -	0·885*	0·345	0·51	0·55	5·255*	2·465	2·865*	4·005*	1·32	3·035	0·735	0·845	22·815*	21·983
Average of 25 years, 1839 to 1863, both inclusive -	0·529	0·746	0·937	2·003	2·895	3·053	2·826	2·771	2·098	1·665	1·306	1·216	22·045	—
1864 - - -	1·865*	0·185	0·0	1·165	3·26*	2·32	3·16*	4·035*	1·17	1·465	0·03	0·185	18·84	—

* Shows when the fall for the month and year is above the average.

Further particulars, under this head, will be found in elaborate tables furnished by Charles Todd, Esq., F.R.A.S., Observer, whose annual report on the meteorology of the Province is exhaustive of the subject.

Conclusion.

The usual table showing the progress of the Colony from its foundation to the present time, as illustrated by the principal items of statistical information on record, closes this volume. In the whole twenty-eight years of the Colony's history therein exhibited, there is no year that has witnessed so great and general advancement in social and material progress as that of 1864, or has given a greater impetus to the development of our resources, and to the future prosperity of the community.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. BOOTHBY,
Government Statist.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of SOUTH AUSTRALIA, from the Year 1855 to 1864 inclusive.

YEAR.	Population.	Number of Inhabitants in City of Adelaide.	Number of Inhabitants in Country Districts.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Convictions in Supreme Court.	Flour Mills.	Lands sold in each Year.	No. of Acres under Cultivation.	Live Stock.			YEAR.
											Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep and Lambs.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Acres.	Acres.	No.	No.	No.	
1855	*85,821	18,259	67,562	3,944	953	1,663	77	—	171,610	—	—	—	—	1855
1856	103,422	—	—	4,488	1,172	1,147	85	70	187,451	203,423	22,260	272,746	1,962,460	1856
1857	109,917	—	—	5,183	1,218	1,304	73	70	177,600	235,965	26,220	310,400	2,075,805	1857
1858	118,340	—	—	5,672	1,173	1,859	75	71	158,015	264,462	34,629	—	—	1858
1859	122,735	—	—	5,738	1,045	1,923	93	75	188,065	361,884	40,471	—	—	1859
1860	*124,112	—	—	5,568	1,031	2,336	78	78	129,262	428,816	49,399	278,265	2,824,811	1860
1861	*126,830	18,303	108,527	5,551	1,158	1,962	62	76	147,354	486,667	52,597	265,434	3,038,356	1861
1862	135,329	—	—	6,075	1,189	1,918	64	77	129,910	494,511	56,251	258,342	3,431,000	1862
1863	140,416	—	—	5,966	1,152	2,221	86	77	159,791	555,968	59,008	226,166	3,891,642	1863
1864	147,341	—	—	6,208	1,291	2,565	70	75	†224,171	587,775	62,899	204,892	4,106,230	1864

YEAR.	Shipping.				Export of Produce of the Colony.					Value of		Revenue.‡	Expenditure.‡	YEAR.
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Breadstuffs, Grain, &c.	Minerals and Metals.	Wool.		Total Exports of Produce (including Sundries).	Total Exports.	Total Imports.			
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.			Quantity.	Value.						
					£	£	lbs.	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1855	361	114,982	350	110,941	236,400	155,557	5,590,171	283,479	686,953	988,215	1,370,938	453,641	689,696	1855
1856	430	113,661	437	116,729	556,371	408,042	8,236,221	412,163	1,398,867	1,665,740	1,366,529	479,977	579,926	1856
1857	486	140,373	484	141,995	755,840	458,839	9,695,203	504,520	1,744,184	1,958,572	1,623,052	455,210	538,212	1857
1858	374	98,802	367	93,589	525,398	373,282	7,775,225	420,833	1,355,041	1,512,185	1,769,351	469,637	528,772	1858
1859	402	111,436	390	104,692	554,265	411,018	9,496,715	484,977	1,502,165	1,655,876	1,507,494	511,927	620,756	1859
1860	324	100,681	338	108,355	499,102	446,537	11,731,371	573,368	1,576,326	1,783,716	1,639,591	438,827	492,656	1860
1861	401	103,196	387	96,135	712,789	452,172	13,164,391	623,007	1,838,639	2,032,311	1,976,018	558,586	482,951	1861
1862	374	105,231	392	111,290	633,241	547,619	13,229,009	635,270	1,920,487	2,145,796	1,820,656	548,709	579,381	1862
1863	440	127,667	446	127,826	747,116	542,393	15,566,787	715,935	2,095,356	2,358,817	2,028,279	631,700	635,205	1863
1864	617	160,095	619	161,293	1,464,593	691,624	16,092,095	775,656	3,015,537	3,305,545	2,412,931	775,837	626,688	1864

* Excepting as regards the years marked thus *, in which the Census was taken, the number given is the population as estimated at the close of each year; where blanks occur, the information was not attainable.
† Total extent of land alienated, 2,894,585 acres.
‡ Land Fund included since 1849.

J. BOOTHBY, Government Statist.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 21.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMPTON to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 29.)

SIR, Government House, Perth, February 21, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1864, accompanied by a covering letter from the Colonial Secretary.

2. The general indications of prosperity exhibited in the statistical information now transmitted are highly satisfactory, especially with reference to the equalization of revenue and expenditure.

3. It appears from the returns in the Blue Book that the revenue from all sources for the year 1864 exceeded the expenditure to the extent of 1,195*l.*, thus showing a balance to that amount available for 1865, in addition to upwards of 1,500*l.* worth of timber and other materials, paid for during 1864, and at present in store for various public works in progress.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

4. It may also be observed that 2,300*l.* received as revenue on loan from the Post Office Savings Bank in 1863, was repaid in 1864, rendering the revenue for 1864 actually 3,495*l.* in excess of the expenditure on account of that year.

5. An increase of 4,690*l.* is shown in the fixed revenue of 1864, as compared with the preceding year, half of that sum being under the head of customs, and 1,209*l.* on account of land.

6. The financial calculations for the current year will be disarranged by the unforseen expenditure connected with the settlement of the northern district not provided for on the estimate; it is therefore fortunate that no outstanding Government liabilities of any sort existed at the end of 1864, and that the public accounts were then in such a satisfactory condition.

7. Monetary affairs, both public and private, have recently improved throughout the Colony, as shown, in some degree, by the increasing exports, activty in business of every kind, and the general prosperity of all classes of the inhabitants.

8. Perhaps no better practical illustration could be given of this with reference to one class, than the progress of the post office savings bank since it was first opened on the 1st September 1863.

9. This valuable institution is making steady progress in the favourable estimation of the public, as may be gathered from the fact that the total of the deposits remaining in the bank on the 31st December 1864 was 3,920*l.* in excess of the amount at the end of 1863.

10. Although every previous attempt to establish savings banks in Western Australia completely failed, the post office savings bank has been very successful up to the end of 1864, when the total of the deposits actually in the bank amounted to 6,390*l.*; certainly a large amount of saving for such a small community to accumulate in 16 months.

11. The mineral land regulations, sanctioned in your Despatch No. 42, dated 26th November last, are very acceptable to the Colonists, and have already been practically acted upon by the approval of several applications, in accordance with these new regulations, for land supposed to contain minerals.

12. The efforts recently made to develop the resources of the Colony by the exploration and settlement of new country are producing promising results, and are likely to become highly beneficial under the influence of the very liberal land regulations promulgated last month for the northern district.

13. A large nnmber of settlers in the neighbouring Colonies have obtained permission to proceed to the north-western part of this Colony. A Government establishment has been forwarded to Camden Harbour, and about 200 white persons, with upwards of 13,000 head of live stock, are now in the northern district, which was wholly unnocupied by either civilized men or imported animals so recently as April 1863.

14. This movement is rendered of vital importance to Western Australia by the decision of Her Majesty's Government to discontinue transportation, as stopping the supply of convict labour for public works, and the diminution of Imperial expenditure must necessarily tend to reproduce a disastrous state of affairs, similar to what existed prior to the introduction of convicts, unless resources not then available are now brought into operation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. S. HAMPTON, Governor.

Enclosure in No. 21.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
February 19, 1865,

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Western Australian Blue Book for the past year, which has been compiled with care and accuracy from the returns furnished to me by the proper officials throughout the Colony.

Revenue and expenditure.

2. The revenue for the year 1864 exceeded the estimated amount by 1,770*l.* and there was an excess of expenditure on the sum estimated, amounting to 574*l.*

The receipts and payments during the year differ little from those in 1863, so far as the total amount is concerned; the former being 201*l.* in excess, and the latter 358*l.* less than those in the year adverted to.

It is satisfactory, however, to observe that there is an increase under customs and land revenue to an extent of nearly 4,000*l.*, and a decrease to a similar amount of receipts in

aid, some of which were monies temporarily appropriated for general purposes in 1863, and having to be refunded in 1864. Thus I look upon the actual revenue in 1864 as greater by at least 5,000*l.* than in the preceding year. WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The expenditure annually and gradually increases, and this must be the case while the area of the Colony continues to extend; it has, however, been so carefully watched, that there was a balance of some 1,500*l.* in favour of the Colony at the end of the year, with no payments to make from the accruing revenue of 1865, which has only to meet the outgoings of the current year, and will, I have no doubt, fully realize the amount estimated.

3. The Imperial expenditure for the year 1864 has varied little from that preceding it, but taking into consideration the late decision of Her Majesty's Ministers in regard to transportation to this Colony, I fear that it will be my not over pleasant duty henceforth to note the decreasing amount of this item. Imperial expenditure.

4. It is not for the people in Western Australia to rebel at this decision; their duty is to bow to the adverse fate that has ruled against their interests, but they can but feel that the unnatural and uncalled-for clamour raised in the Colony of Victoria must affect their progress and prosperity, not only now, but for years to come. Transportation.

Just emerging from a period of stagnation and depression, there was every hope that the occupation of the newly discovered districts, creating trade between them and the settled portions of the Colony, furnishing a means for the employment of capital and for the extension of trading, farming, and grazing operations, would, coupled with the cheap labour to be obtained, have gone far to place the settlers on a firm footing, and enabled the Colony to shake off that inertness which has hung over it for so many years, and commence a system of progression more in accordance with that exhibited in the neighbouring Colonies.

5. The depression caused by the adverse news in regard to transportation has, however, been alleviated by a universal feeling that Her Majesty's Government will act liberally towards the Colony thus suddenly deprived of means which have done much to bring about the present prosperous state of things as compared with what existed some few years since. There are those who are too ready unwisely to clamour for compensation in forms that would not only be utterly useless to the Colony, but which could not be entertained by the British Parliament. Depression.

6. I cannot doubt that any reasonable suggestion will be attended to and acted on, and that all legitimate means of furthering the interests and prosperity of a community that has been of such service to the mother country will be adopted. Suggestions as to free emigration, &c. in lieu of transportation.

Useful emigration on such a scale as can from time to time be fairly absorbed by the Colony will I trust be carried on at Imperial expense for some years, and it would be a boon to the Colony, little short of that of which it is about to be deprived, if an annual order for some few thousand loads of timber was received for Admiralty or railway service.

The Western Australian jarrah bears a very high character, it can be supplied at a reasonable rate per load, not exceeding the range of present English prices, and if once the prejudice of shipwrights and others against the use of any article, the goodness of which has not already been proved by lapse of years, could be set aside, it would soon become in great demand, and the supply is unlimited.

7. Few buildings of any importance have been erected during the year; the available convict labour has been judiciously employed in the repair of roads and the construction of bridges throughout the Colony; and this, coupled with an expenditure of 6,000*l.* principally in carts and horses to enable the convict labour to be employed to greater advantage, has caused a large amount of improvement in the roads, and given general satisfaction. Public works.

8. There is an actual increase in the population of 691 souls, but this must be attributed to the arrival of convicts; the departures among the actual community has largely exceeded the arrivals. Population.

9. The imports for 1864, as compared with those for 1863, show an increase of about 10,000*l.*, while the exports show a decrease of 27,000*l.* This decrease in the exports is, however, to be explained by a large cargo of wool having left the Colony in December 1863, which, under usual circumstances, would have appeared in the exports for 1864. Imports and exports.

The steady increase of the exports of the Colony is very manifest if those for 1863–4 are compared with preceding years. Thus the combined amounts in 1861–2 were 210,373*l.*, and in 1863–4, 284,278*l.*

10. I have again to note an increased cultivation to the extent of 2,400 acres, and a large increase in the returns of horses, cattle, and sheep. I do not however place very Cultivation, stock, &c.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

much reliance on the returns rendered on these points ; I am well aware that much care is taken in their collection, but it is difficult in such a scattered country for persons to estimate the exact numbers of their herds, and they are apt to put down round numbers at random. I am under the impression that both the acreage and stock given are in excess of the actual amount and numbers.

North district.

11. For the first time I am enabled to give an approximate number of the stock imported to the north and east districts, to the former of which numerous settlers have proceeded, and from whence I hope to obtain accurate returns for succeeding years. The formation of a Government establishment at Camden Sound, and the occupation of a considerable portion of the country in its vicinity by a numerous body of settlers from the Colony of Victoria, coupled with the position of the newly proclaimed town site of Elliot, lead me to hope that before many years elapse a flourishing settlement will be planted in North-west Australia, and that other towns will soon follow at the several points where settlers have located themselves in considerable numbers.

Leased land.

12. There appears an increase in the amount of leased land to the extent of 151,481 acres as compared with the previous year ; and this is satisfactory, showing the settlers are pushing their way further into the interior, most of the newly leased land being at the back of runs on which stock are already located.

No land in the new districts is yet under lease, the regulations for the depasturing of stock sanctioning free runs for four years ; but so soon as that time is expired, large tracts of country will then come under lease and materially increase the land revenue.

Crime.

13. It is gratifying to report a decrease of crime among the free population ; and the slight increase of it among the bond population is barely in proportion to their enlarged numbers.

A glance at the returns will show that of the numerous offences recorded the majority are of a trifling nature, more than one-half being for drunkenness and breach of convict regulations.

Concluding remarks.

14. In conclusion I can but remark, that with the exception of the depression caused by the decision in regard to transportation, a general feeling of content and satisfaction has appeared to pervade the Colony during the past year ; there has been no excitement or ill-will against the Government, and it would be difficult to picture a more quiet or well-disposed community ; rejoicing in a delightful climate, surrounded by all the necessaries combined with some of the luxuries of life, with a fair market for their produce, and a reasonable return for labour and enterprise, it is to be hoped that the new era about to take place in the history of the Colony may not result in altering its prospects in those particulars where change is so undesirable.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor, &c. &c. (Signed) FRED. P. BARLEE.

NEW ZEALAND.

NEW ZEALAND.

No. 22.

No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. GREY, K.C.B. to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 55.)

SIR, Government House, Wellington, June 8, 1866.

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information copies of the Statistics of New Zealand for the year 1864.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c. (Signed) G. GREY.

REPORT to the Honourable E. W. STAFFORD, Colonial Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

Registrar-General's Office, Auckland,

SIR, May 7, 1866.

Contents of this volume.

In the series of Statistical Tables for 1864 which I now have the honour to present will be found in considerable detail the results of the census of New Zealand taken in December of that year, as well as the general statistical information relating to the Colony which it has been usual to include in the successive annual

volumes, of which this is the ninth. Some of the most important of the census results have, however, been made public nearly a year ago. It having been deemed especially desirable that those results which would directly come under review in the discussion of a Representation Act should be available during the Session of the General Assembly, steps were taken to obtain from the enumerators at the earliest practicable date after the collection of the household forms by the sub-enumerators returns in anticipation of their fuller compilations. From these I prepared tables showing compendiously the population, the cultivation and crops, and the live stock in each Province and in each Electoral District of the Colony. Although, even in this effort, some delay was occasioned by the necessity of writing for explanations or amendments, yet I had the satisfaction of being able by the end of March 1865 to complete the information referred to with a sufficiently close approximation to accuracy for all practical purposes. The tables which I then laid before the Government were published in the "Gazette," Number 17, of the 18th of May, with additional tables comparing, numerically and centesimally, the census of 1864 with the censuses of 1861 and 1858. Not long afterwards the "Gazette" (Number 23 of July 11th) contained a table, similar to No. 12 of Part I. in this volume, showing the numbers of males in each Electoral District of the age of 21 and upwards, with the respective numbers of electors, and calculations connected with the extent to which the electoral franchise was possessed by the population; and a subsequent "Gazette" (Number 37 of September 22nd) contained a revised summary of the census results which had been published corrected from the enumerators' final returns, with such an estimate as I was able to form of the population of the Colony on the 30th of June (1865).

Previous publication of certain results of census.

I regret, however, to be obliged to remark that, notwithstanding the unusually early publication of certain principal results of the census, the statistical volume as a whole appears later than in any previous year. Various causes have combined to produce delay. The compilation of the details of several branches of the census information involved in some instances references back to the enumerators, and ultimately tedious and laborious examination of the original schedules. Indeed, no inconsiderable portion of the work which should have been done by the enumerators devolved upon this office, so that the effort to arrive at the utmost attainable accuracy cost much more time and trouble than in the case of either of the preceding censuses (1861 or 1858). The greatest delay, however, was with regard to the general statistics. In addition to the hindrances which are almost inevitable, and which may be said to be peculiar to New Zealand as compared with other Australasian Colonies,—owing to the large numbers of returns required from distant and detached localities, and the variety of distinct and independent Departments, General and Provincial, from which these returns are to be obtained,—there were special hindrances arising out of the removal of the seat of Government just at the period of 1865 when the Statistical Returns for 1864 might otherwise have been expected to be prepared, and the consequent unavoidable postponement of a work for which reference to numerous records in different offices would be necessary. To this followed the demands for financial and other returns required for the Session of the General Assembly, to which, very possibly, precedence was given. Without entering minutely, however, into these and other causes of delay, I may state that some of the materials for important tables in this volume did not come into my own hands until the latter part of the month of January last; and that since the tables were ready for the press the work of printing has been protracted beyond what I had at all anticipated. Thus much, however, it seems only simple justice to this department to mention, in explanation of a delay longer than has occurred before, or than, I hope and believe, is likely to occur again, in the publication of the statistical volume.

Causes of delay in publication of this volume.

With a view to facility of reference and general convenience of arrangement, the tables have been classified in two divisions, Part I. being exclusively devoted to the census, and Part II. containing the general statistics of the year.

Division of volume into two parts.

PART I.—CENSUS.

The census enumeration was taken for the night of the 1st of December 1864 on a plan substantially the same as that adopted in December 1861, by which the information was obtained not only (as on previous occasions) for each Province of the Colony, but also for each Electoral District returning Members to the General Assembly. The compilations have been made in conformity with this plan, separate tables having been constructed for the Provinces and the Electoral Districts respectively upon all the branches of information on which such details seemed necessary. Appendix E. to Part. I.

Arrangements for the census of 1864.

NEW ZEALAND.

Appendix E.

contains *in extenso* the schedules to the "Representation Act, 1860," and the, "Representation Act, 1862," showing the exact territory comprised in each Electoral District. The republication of these descriptions of boundaries in connexion with the tables for 1864 appeared to me the more requisite on account of the extensive alterations in the Electoral Districts of the Southern Island effected by the Representation Act passed in the last Session of the General Assembly. As in 1861, the important trust of selecting the persons by whom the actual work of the census in the several Provinces was to be carried out was practically placed in the hands of the respective Provincial Governments; the enumerator for each Province having been appointed by his Excellency in accordance with a nomination by the Superintendent of a gentlemen whom his Honour regarded as competent to discharge the duties satisfactorily; and the sub-enumerators having been chosen by the enumerator, (subject, of course, to the Governor's approval, which was always given).

Census of military settlers, &c.

The military settlers and the Colonial defence force in the Northern Island were, however, a new and peculiar addition to the population of the Colony, and special steps were taken to ensure fulness and accuracy of information respecting them. Instead of leaving them to be enumerated under the general arrangements for the Provinces and Districts, an officer (in most instances the commanding officer) of each regiment or corps was appointed as enumerator, and members of the regiment or corps selected by him, as sub-enumerators. There was some difficulty in determining on the best mode of dealing with the returns in these cases; but, on the whole, the plan which appeared to me likely to give the information in the clearest form, and with least liability to error or confusion, was that they should be included in the numbers for the Provinces, but not in those for the Electoral Districts (in which it would have been scarcely possible to classify them correctly); and that the principal results of this section of the census should be shown separately. This was the plan pursued, in a summary form, in the first tables of census results (published in the "Gazette" of May 18th, 1865), and I have adhered to it in the preparation of the details in this volume; the Appendices A, B, C, D, to Part I. showing a variety of particulars relating to the military settlers, &c.

Objects of this report.

From these preliminary remarks I proceed, as on former occasions, to give in a condensed form the leading points of the information embodied in the following tables, referring those who desire to enter into minuter details to the tables themselves. The notes in the margin will direct to the several tables in which such details are to be found.

Population.

Part I.

* Tables I.—V.

Population of Colony (as shown by census):

of each Province:

of the Northern and Middle Islands:

of the military and their families.

In December 1864 the population of European descent in New Zealand (exclusive of the military and their families), as shown by the census returns, was 172,158, of whom 106,580 were males, and 65,578 females. In these numbers are included the military settlers, &c., and their families, numbering altogether 6,382,viz., 5,139 males and 1,243 females. The distribution of the total population through the several Provinces was as follows:—Auckland, 42,132; Taranaki, 4,374; Wellington, 14,987; Hawke's Bay, 3,770; Nelson, 11,910; Marlborough, 5,519; Canterbury, 32,276; Otago, 49,019; Southland, 8,085; to which is to be added the population of the Chatham Islands (86), making the aggregate as above. Thus it will be seen that the Northern Island (comprising the Provinces of Auckland, Taranaki, Wellington, and Hawke's Bay) contained 65,263 or 37·93 per cent. of the population; and the Middle Island (comprising the Provinces of Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury, Otago, and Southland), 106,809 or 62·07 per cent. These numbers, as has been stated, do not include the military or their families, who numbered 11,973, viz., officers and men, 9,136; male children, 933; and women and female children, 1,904.

Comparison with previous years:

1864 with 1861:

1861 with 1858:

1858 with 1851.

A comparison of these figures with the numbers shown by the three previous general censuses of New Zealand will afford satisfactory evidence of the rapid advance of the Colony as to its population. In the three years from 1861 to 1864, tracing the census results backward in order of time, the population increased from 99,021 to 172,158, being an increase of 73,137 persons, or 73·86 per cent. In the three preceding years, viz., from 1858 to 1861, the increase was 39,643 persons, or 66·82 per cent. In the seven preceding years, viz., from 1851 to 1858, the increase was 32,621 persons, or, calculated centesimally, 121·86 per cent.

Taking the comparison between 1851 and 1864 we find that the population had, in this period of 13 years, grown from a total of 26,707 to a total of 172,158, being

* The Tables, Appendices, &c., to this Report are not reprinted.

an increase of 145,451 persons, or 544·61 per cent. This was an average increase for the period of 11,188 persons, or 41·89 per cent. in each year. Comparing similarly the shorter periods included, the average annual increase from 1851 to 1858 was 17·41 per cent. on the population of 1851; the average annual increase from 1858 to 1861 was 22·24 per cent. on the population of 1858; and the average annual increase from 1861 to 1864 was 24·58 per cent. on the population of 1861.

Average annual increase

The advance in the population of the several Provinces in the triennial period from 1861 to 1864 will be found in detail in Table II. The following summary presents the results in the order of the proportionate increase within that period in each Province as compared with its population in 1861:—

Population of Provinces in in 1861 and 1864.

Southland,	numerical increase,	6,209,	or 330·97 per cent.
Marlborough,	,,	3,220,	or 140·06 ,,
Taranaki,	,,	2,330,	or 113·99 ,,
Canterbury,	,,	16,236,	or 101·22 ,,
Otago,	,,	21,856,	or 80·46 ,,
Auckland	,,	17,712,	or 72·53 ,,
Hawke's Bay,	,,	1,159,	or 44·48 ,,
Nelson,	,,	1,958,	or 19·67 ,,
Wellington	,,	2,421,	or 19·26 ,,

Electoral Districts. (Tables IV., V.)

The population of each Electoral District of the Colony will be found in Table IV., which shows, in addition to the numbers, sexes, and ages, the numbers of each sex under and over 21 years. Table V. contains a comparison of the population of each district in 1864 with its population in 1861. As the census of 1861 was the first in which arrangements were made for an enumeration according to the divisions into Electoral Districts, this comparison cannot be carried farther back than that year.

Aboriginal native population.

The population enumerated by the census was (it need scarcely be repeated here) exclusively of European descent. Had it been practicable to take a census of the aboriginal native population of New Zealand at the same time, the results would, no doubt, have been regarded with great interest. But the attempt, which would have been attended with difficulty under the most favourable circumstances, would, in the then existing circumstances of some of those parts of the country where Maories were most numerous, have been useless, or worse. After the (European) census of 1861, I prepared an estimate of the native population based upon the Maori census of 1857–58, (of which copious extracts were published in the Statistical Volume for 1857). According to this estimate the Maori population then amounted to 55,336, viz., 31,329 males and 23,928 females (with 79 whose sex was not stated). Of these, the Northern Island was estimated to contain 53,056, leaving only 2,280 for the Middle Island. These figures of course were not assumed to be any more than such an approximation to the real numbers as the available materials permitted; and there cannot, I apprehend, be any doubt that the numbers in the Northern Island (which has been the scene of war, in addition to the other influences believed to be producing a diminution, more or less rapid in the native population), if they could now be made up correctly, would exhibit a great decrease.

Relative Proportion of Sexes.

Proportions of sexes: in the Colony:

The number of males (of European descent) in New Zealand in December 1864 was (exclusive of the military) 106,580, or 61·91 per cent. of the whole population. The number of females was 65,578, or 38·09 per cent. The following figures will show for each Province separately the centesimal proportions of males and females respectively to the population of the Province, and the centesimal excess of males in each Province.

in each Province.

	Males, per Cent.	Females, per Cent.	Centesimal Excess of Males.
Auckland - - - -	60·97	39·03	21·94
Taranaki - - - -	65·66	34·34	31·32
Wellington - - -	55·66	44·34	11·32
Hawke's bay - - -	65·17	34·83	30·34
Nelson - - - -	56·31	43·69	12·62
Marlborough - - -	73·06	26·94	46·12
Canterbury - - -	58·65	41·35	17·30
Otago - - - -	66·69	33·31	33·38
Southland - - - -	59·44	40·56	18·88
Average for the Colony -	61·91	38·09	23·82

NEW ZEALAND.

Proportions in 1861 and 1858.

The average proportions of the sexes in the Colony in December 1861 were, males, 61·67 per cent.; females, 38·33 per cent.; excess of males, 23·34 per cent. In December 1858 they were, males, 56·68 per cent.; females, 43·32 per cent.; excess of males, 13·36 per cent. The increased proportion of males as compared with 1858 may, no doubt, be attributed principally to the great influx of miners to the gold fields of the Colony, very many of whom were unmarried, or had left their wives and families in other countries.

Civil or Conjugal Condition of the People.

Tables VII. and VIII.

The general totals for the Colony, as shown by the census of 1864, were as follow:—married males, 27,482, being 15·96 per cent. on the whole population, and 25.78 per cent. on the total number of males. Married females, 25,248, being 14·66 per cent. on the whole population, and 38·50 per cent. on the total number of females. Unmarried males (including widowers and male children), 77,711, being 45·14 per cent. on the whole population, and 72·92 per cent. on the total number of males. Unmarried females (including widows and female children), 39,990, being 23·23 per cent. on the whole population, and 60·98 per cent. on the total number of females. The numbers of widowers and widows included are, 1,806 widowers, and 1,809 widows.

Deducting from the totals of "unmarried" (including widowers and widows) the persons under 15 years of age, the numbers remain, males 47,904, females 11,428. The proportions between the sexes thus shown are, males 80·74 per cent., females 19·26 per cent.

Expressing the information thus arrived at otherwise, it appears that of every 100 of the total male population, 25·78 were married; 44·95 of the males aged 15 and upwards, and 27·97 under 15 years of age were unmarried (there being 1·30 whose "condition" was not stated in the returns); and of every 100 of the total female population, 38·50 were married; 17·43 females aged 15 years and upwards, and 43·55 under 15 years of age were unmarried (there being 0·52 whose "condition" was not stated).

A similar calculation with respect to the numbers shown by the census of 1861 exhibits the following results:—Of every 100 of the total male population, 25·86 were married; 38·20 aged 16 years and upwards and 31·19 under 16 years of age were unmarried (there being 4·75 whose "condition" was not stated); and of every 100 of the total female population, 36·43 were married, and 15·77 aged 16 years and upwards and 47·80 under 16 years of age were unmarried.

Deaf and Dumb, or Blind.

Table VI.

The number of deaf and dumb persons in the Colony is shown in Table No. VI. as 19, viz., males, 14; females, 5. The number in 1861 was 20, viz., 11 males and 9 females. The nmmber of blind persons in 1864 was 19, viz., 14 males and 5 females. In 1861 the number was 21, viz., 14 males and 7 females.

Dwellings of the People.

Tables VI., VII., VIII., and IX.

In December 1864 the total number of houses in the Colony was 37,996, being a net increase of 15,598 in the three years since the census of 1861, when the number was 22,398, which was an increase of 9,565 in the three years since the census of 1858. It is to be remarked, however, that the gross total for 1861 included 3,687 tents; and the gross total for 1864 included 6,742 tents, most of these in both years being, as might be supposed, on the gold fields. The tents may be regarded as included in the numbers of dwellings having "1 or 2 rooms," which in 1864 amounted to 18,841; the respective totals for dwelllings of 3 rooms being 4,612; of 4 rooms, 5,352; of 5 rooms, 2,451; and of 6 rooms or upwards, 6,674.

With respect to the materials of which the houses were constructed, the returns show, wood, 25,463 in 1864, against 15,139 in 1861 and 10,179 in 1858; stone or brick, 1,082 in 1864, against 477 in 1861 and 307 in 1858; and other materials (including Raupo houses and the tents above referred to), 11,451 in 1864, against 6,782 in 1861 and 2,326 in 1858.*

The details of houses in the Electoral Districts in 1864 will be found in Table No. VIII.; and Table No. IX. contains a comparative view of the houses in these districts in 1861 and 1864.

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* The houses in the Chatham Islands were not included in the numbers for 1858.

NEW ZEALAND.

The proportion of the population to each dwelling calculated on the census returns of the respective years was 4·63 in 1858, 4·42 in 1861, and 4·53 in 1864.

Tables X. and XI.

Special forms were supplied to the sub-enumerators for returns of "uninhabited houses" and "houses building" in their sub-districts. But some uncertainty attaches to the former part of these returns, it being evident that while, in several instances, they avowedly include stores or shops occupied (only) during the daytime, in many other cases there are no means of accurately ascertaining whether or not such buildings have been counted as "uninhabited." I have, however, given the results, such as they are, in Tables X. and XI. for the Provinces and also for the Electoral Districts, appending, so far as I could collect them from the returns, explanatory notes. The returns of "houses building" are more reliable, and show a total number for the Colony of 998.

Electoral Franchise.

Table XII. Proportion of electors of male population.

The total male population shown in the tables for the Electoral Districts (which it will be borne in mind do not include the military settlers, the numbers in the shipping, or the inhabitants of the Chatham Islands,) amounted to 99,180, of whom 62,197 were aged 21 years or upwards. The total number on the rolls as electors was 19,552; a number which does not include the electors for the Electoral District of the Otago gold-fields, the nature of whose qualification (defined in "The Miners' Representation Act Amendment Act, 1863,") does not admit of the formation of an electoral roll in the usual way. The total number of representatives for these constituencies in the General Assembly was 57, including the two members for the Otago gold-fields. The proportion of electors to every hundred of the total male population was, in 1864, 19·71 per cent., against 22·39 per cent. in 1861; and the proportion to every hundred males of 21 and upwards was, in 1864, 31·43 per cent., against 39·32 per cent. in 1861. The table contains calculations of these proportions for each Electoral District; but although the calculations exhibit correct results as the electoral rolls actually stood at the time, the value of the detailed comparison between electoral franchise and population is necessarily qualified by the consideration that in numerous instances electors are non-resident, many having votes in more than one district; to which is to be added, with regard to the Electoral Districts of Taranaki, the special consideration that, in consequence of the war, the great bulk of the population was congregated in the town of New Plymouth.

Places of Birth.

Tables XIII., XIV. Places of birth.

The particulars of the places of birth of the population are given in detail for the several Provinces, both numerically and centesimally, in Tables XIII. and XIV. The following are the proportions for the whole Colony:—England, 33·95; Ireland, 11·80; Scotland, 17·98; Wales, 0·60; New Zealand, 23·95; Australian Colonies, 5·54; other British dominions, 1·80; United States of America, 0·65; France, 0·29; Germany, 1·16; other Foreign countries, 1·27; at sea, 0·35; not specified, 0·66.

Subjoined is a compendious tabular view of the information on this subject supplied by the census of 1864, compared with that of the census of 1861.

Places of Birth.	Population.		Increase or Decrease in 1864.		Proportion per Cent. of each Nationality to the respective Totals of Population.	
	1861.	1864.	Numerical.	Proportionate.	1861.	1864.
England	36,128	58,444	22,316	61·76	36·49	33·95
Ireland	8,831	20,317	11,486	130·06	8·92	11·80
Scotland	15,534	30,940	15,406	99·17	15·69	17·98
Wales	472	1,029	557	118·00	0·48	0·60
New Zealand	27,604	41,235	13,631	49·38	27·86	23·95
Australian Colonies	2,579	9,533	6,954	269·63	2·61	5·54
Other British Dominions	1,848	3,109	1,261	68·23	1·87	1·80
United States of America	720	1,115	395	54·85	0·73	0·65
France	319	505	186	58·30	0·32	0·29
Germany	780	1,999	1,219	156·28	0·78	1·16
Other Foreign Countries	838	2,189	1,351	161·21	0·85	1·27
At Sea	447	601	154	34·45	0·45	0·35
Not specified	2,921	1,142	decr. 1,779	decr. 60·90	2·95	0·66
	99,021	172,158	73,137	73·86	100·00	100·00

NEW ZEALAND.

Occupations.

Tables XV., XVI. Occupations.

Although the occupations entered in the census returns have been compiled in this office with considerable labour and in full detail, I have not thought it necessary to amplify, except slightly, the form of table in which they were classified for 1861 and 1858. The difficulties pointed out in my report on the census of 1861 still impede any attempt to tabulate this branch of the census in New Zealand "without incurring the "risk of showing conclusions which may be misleading in effect, however they may be "verbally in accordance with the schedules." Amongst the causes of this uncertainty continue to be "the number of cases in which settlers pursue more than one occupation; "the instances (perhaps frequent) in which they enter in the schedules the professions or "callings to which they were brought up, or with which they would wish to be identified, "rather than those in which they are most habitually engaged, or from which principally "they derive their maintenance; the vagueness of many of the descriptions; and the "different names given to what may be regarded as really the same business." The tables will, however, afford a general view of the proportions in which the colonists are engaged in the principal employments and pursuits; and the following summary will show the comparison between 1864 and 1861.

Occupations.	1861.	1864.	Increase.		Proportions of Occupations to the Population.	
			Numerical.	Proportionate.	1861.	1864.
Trade, Commerce, and Manufactures - - -	3,283	7,625	4,342	132·25	3·31	4·43
Agricultural and Pastoral - - - -	7,469	12,089	4,620	61·85	7·54	7·02
Mechanics, Artificers, and Skilled Workers - -	5,783	12,118	6,335	109·54	5·84	7·04
Mining - - - - - - - -	11,138	12,527	1,389	12·47	11·25	7·28
Professions, Clerical, Medical, and Legal - -	468	619	151	32·26	0·47	0·36
Teachers, Surveyors, and other Educated Professions -	976	1,106	130	13·31	0·99	0·64
Labourers - - - - - - -	5,607	12,639	7,032	125·41	5·66	7·34
Domestic and General Servants - - - -	2,808	6,202	3,394	120·86	2·84	3·60
Miscellaneous - - - - - -	4,245	13,951	9,706	228·64	4·29	8·11
No Occupation stated (principally Women and Children)	57,244	93,282	36,038	62·95	57·81	54·18
	99,021	172,158	73,137	73·86	100·00	100·00

Religious Denominations.

Table XVII., XVIII.

The list of "religious bodies" in Schedule D. of the "Marriage Act, 1854," has, as on former occasions, been made the basis of the compilation of the census results for 1864, a column being added for the large number returned as "Protestants" without any more distinctive designation, amounting to a total of 6,825, or 3·96 per cent. of the population of the Colony. The number not described in any way was 2,618, or 1·52 per cent. on the population, a considerably smaller number than in 1861, when the proportion "not described" was 3·69 per cent. (the greater portion of those included, however, having been gold diggers in Otago, with respect to whom in that year the information was comparatively defective).

The number "described otherwise," that is, by designations which could not be brought under any of the headings above specified, was, in 1864, 2,220, or 1·29 per cent. of the population, against 1,284, or 1·30 per cent. of the population, in 1861. This number will be found reduced to 272 persons by the note to Table No. XVII., in which I have given the descriptions found in the schedules for the remaining 1,948. For these 272 persons there were no less than 70 descriptions, many of which were no doubt almost identical in meaning, but all varying more or less in the form of expression. No designation has been omitted, the persons returned as belonging to which (including men, women, and children) numbered as many as 20.

It will be seen by the centesimal calculations in Table No. XVIII. that, according to the census schedules, the Church of England had, in December 1864, 42·47 per cent. of the population of the Colony; the Presbyterian churches, 24·43 per cent.; the Roman Catholic church, 12·49 per cent.; the Wesleyan Methodist church, 7·26 per cent.; the Congregational Independents, 2·14 per cent.; the Baptists, 1·97 per cent.; the Primitive Methodists, 0·78 per cent.; the Lutherans, 1·05 per cent.; the Hebrews, 0·56 per cent.; and the Society of Friends, 0·08 per cent. "Protestants," not more distinctively described, were 3·96 per cent.; "otherwise described," 1·29 per cent.; and not described in any way, 1·52 per cent.

The subjoined summary exhibits a comparison between 1861 and 1864, showing for each year the numbers of the population returned as belonging to each of the principal denominations; the increase on each in 1864, both in absolute numbers and in the

centesimal proportion borne by those numbers to the numbers in 1861; and the centesimal proportions of each denomination to the total population in the respective years.

Denomination.	Population.		Increase or Decrease in 1864.		Proportions to total Population.	
	1861.	1864.	Numerical.	Proportionate.	1861.	1864.
Church of England	44,451	73,118	28,667	64·49	44·89	42·47
Church of Scotland, Free Church of Scotland, and Presbyterians not more specifically described	21,207	42,058	20,851	98·32	21·41	24·43
Roman Catholic Church	10,870	21,507	10,637	97·85	10·98	12·49
Wesleyan Methodist Church	7,670	12,506	4,836	63·05	7·75	7·26
Congregational Independents	2,070	3,689	1,619	78·21	2·09	2·14
Baptists	1,958	3,391	1,433	73·18	1·98	1·97
Primitive Methodists	724	1,340	616	85·08	0·73	0·78
Lutheran Church	681	1,803	1,122	164·75	0·68	1·05
Hebrews	326	955	629	192·94	0·32	0·56
Society of Friends	70	128	58	82·85	0·07	0·08
Protestants (no particular denomination specified)	4,053	6,825	2,772	68·39	4·09	3·96
Otherwise described	1,284	2,220	936	72·89	1·30	1·29
Not described	3,657	2,618	decr. 1,039	decr. 28·41	3·69	1·52

Education.

Tables XIX., XX., XXI.

The census results on this most important subject will be found, on the whole, gratifying and encouraging. It is matter of regret, indeed, that in the Provinces of Nelson and Canterbury the household forms were in many instances so imperfectly filled up with regard to education that in the former there were 1,288, or 10·81 per cent. of the population of the Province, and in the latter, 1,388, or 4·30 per cent. of the population, with regard to whom the required information was not entered in the schedules. But deducting these, with 50 in the Province of Auckland and 136 in the Province of Otago, making a total of 2,862 of the state of whose education no particulars have been supplied, it appears that of the population of the Colony under 15 years of age, 18,689, viz. 9,637 males and 9,052 females, and of the population of 15 and upwards, 104,399, viz. 71,420 males and 32,979 females, were able to read and write. Thus, including both sexes and all ages, there were 123,088 returned as having attained this degree of education. The proportions, centesimally worked out, are as follow:—Under 15 years,—cannot read, males, 53·18 per cent., females, 53·34 per cent.; read only, males, 13·43 per cent., females, 13·88 per cent.; read and write, males, 33·39 per cent., females, 82·78 per cent. 15 years and upwards,—cannot read, males, 3·39 per cent., females, 3·85 per cent.; read only, males, 2·69 per cent., females, 6·48 per cent.; read and write, males, 93·92 per cent., females, 89·67 per cent. Both sexes and all ages,—cannot read, 20·13 per cent., read only, 7·17 per cent.; read and write, 72·70 per cent., being, in 1864 as compared with 1861, an increase of 4·03 per cent. on the proportion of the total population able to read and write, and 1861 showed an increase of 5·16 per cent. on the proportion shown by the census of 1858.

Schools. Table XXII.

The table referred to in the margin shows the numbers returned as attending school in each Province in December 1864, distinguishing the sexes, and also showing the numbers of males and females respectively under five years of age, and between five and 15.

The subjoined summary presents a comparative view of the total numbers returned as attending school in December 1861 and December 1864 respectively.

Provinces.	At Day Schools.				At Sunday Schools.			
	Supported by Government Aid.		Private, or not receiving Government Aid.		At Sunday only.		At both Day and Sunday.	
	1861.	1864.	1861.	1864.	1861.	1864.	1861.	1864.
Auckland	1,217	1,447	1,824	2,573	483	529	1,565	2,380
Taranaki	39	126	260	468	115	149	249	428
Wellington	394	828	1,294	1,235	1,254	347	849	933
Hawke's Bay	50	51	57	134	26	48	33	108
Nelson	1,361	1,450	411	579	283	330	896	1,116
Marlborough	53	99	50	135	9	11	81	75
Canterbury	864	1,456	725	1,341	535	633	961	1,775
Otago	646	2,296	428	1,158	105	449	456	1,853
Southland	26	150	42	449	21	145	38	290
Totals	4,650	7,903	5,091	8,072	2,831	2,641	5,128	8,958

NEW ZEALAND.

Within what may be considered the "school going" period, that is between the ages of 5 and 15 (this being the closest approach to that period afforded by the census returns), the numbers show 15,975 attending day schools in 1864, being a proportion of 50·28 per cent. on the total (of 31,737). Dividing these numbers according to the sexes, there was of the total of males within those ages (which was 16,276), a total of 8,360, or 51·36 per cent.; and of the total of females within those ages (which was 15,461), a total of 7,615, or 49·25 per cent., attending day schools. On the whole population under 15 (amounting to 58,369) the proportion was 27·36 per cent.

A comparison with 1861 is subject to the qualification that, in the census of that year, the classification of ages which must be adopted according to the census forms was 6 to 16 (instead of 5 to 15, as in 1864). Within those ages in 1861 there were 18,841 persons. The number returned as attending day schools was 9,741, being a proportion of 51·70 per cent. on that total. Of the total of males (9,689) a proportion of 52·08 per cent., and of the total females (9,152) a proportion of 51·30 per cent. were shown by the returns.

I had occasion, however, to remark with regard to the censuses of both 1861 and 1858, that the figures were not assumed to be absolutely accurate, "the columns for school "attendance being those which in many instances were least satisfactorily filled up." Although, by a further modification of the headings in the household forms, the risk of confusion between children attending "day schools, "Sunday schools only," and "both day and Sunday schools" has been greatly lessened, still I apprehend that the complete correctness which is so desirable on this important subject cannot be claimed for the figures presented, however carefully they may have been compiled from the original entries. Notwithstanding any defectiveness in parts of the returns, however, they bring out clearly the facts that in 1864 there were 15,975 children attending day schools (public or private) in the Colony; and that (including those attending Sunday schools only and those attending both day and Sunday schools) there were 11,599 receiving Sunday school instruction. The numbers of those receiving education at home cannot of course be brought into the returns; but the existence, extent, and value of home education in the Colony should never be forgotten in any comprehensive estimate of the means in operation for the intellectual and moral training of the rising generation in New Zealand.

Land Fenced and under Crop, and Live Stock.

Tables XXIII. to XXVIII.

Full particulars on these branches of the census information (for both the Provinces and the Electoral Districts), together with comparisons of 1864 with 1861 and 1858, will be found in the series of tables referred to in the margin. It will be sufficient, therefore, in this place to exhibit the general results; carrying back the view, however, to 1851, so as to show the steady and rapid progress of the Colony in these elements of prosperity.

Land fenced.

The quantity of land fenced in 1851 was 30,470 acres; in 1858, 235,561 acres; in 1861, 409,763 acres; and in 1864, 1,072,383 acres.

Land under crop.

The quantity of land under crop in 1851 was 29,140 acres; in 1858, 141,007 acres; in 1861, 226,621 acres; and in 1864, 382,655 acres.

Live stock.

The aggregate numbers of live stock of all kinds (excluding throughout poultry, which were not enumerated until 1861) were, in 1851, 299,115; in 1858, 1,728,093; in 1861, 3,038,557; and in 1864, 5,310,062.

Taking the principal kinds of live stock separately, the numbers were the following:—horses, in 1851, 2,890; in 1858, 14,912; in 1861, 28,275; and in 1864, 49,409. Cattle in 1851, 34,787; in 1858, 137,204; in 1861, 193,285; and in 1864, 249,760. The increase in the numbers of sheep, however, is the most remarkable. These were, in 1851, 233,043; in 1858, 1,523,324; in 1861, 2,761,383; and in 1864, 4,937,273.

Appendix.

Military settlers, &c. Appendix A., B., C., and D.

In a series of four tables are given the particulars, ascertained by the census, respecting the military settlers and colonial defence force which were referred to in a note to Table No. I. These portions of the population have been included (as was before stated) in all the tables relating to the provinces in which they were stationed on the census night, as well as in the totals of the Colony; but as this part of the census was separately taken, I have deemed it right to show in the Appendix, although in a somewhat condensed form, the details of the information so collected.

Description of Electoral Districts. Appendix E.

The Appendix to Part I. is closed by the descriptions of the boundaries of the portions of the Colony included as "Electoral Districts" in a number of the preceding tables. The descriptions are a verbatim copy of the schedule to "The Representation Act, 1860," with the addition of the schedule to "The Representation Act, 1862,"

defining the boundaries of the districts of "Dunedin and Suburbs North" and "Dunedin and Suburbs South" constituted by that Act. NEW ZEALAND.

In connexion with the census of 1864 (as previously in 1858 and 1861), an attempt was made to obtain a variety of additional information relating to subjects on which Schedule B. of the Census Act authorizes inquiry to be made. But, as on former occasions, while from some places the returns appeared to be comparatively full and reliable, from others they were not such as to render it practicable to classify and arrange the whole in any adequately comprehensive and accurate shape, although no small amount of labour has been bestowed on them in this office. I would, however, repeat the expression of my hope that "the information will ultimately be found of value, "not only in itself, but as a guide to further inquiries which may issue in more satisfac- "tory results."

PART II.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

The first table in this part is a summary of the population, cultivation and crops, and live stock in the Colony in December 1864. The information is of course taken from the census returns, and is to be found in detail in Part I. of this volume. But I have thought it well to give a compendious view of certain principal results of the census in this place, as an appropriate introduction to the tables which follow, and which, in consequence of the introduction of this as No. I., will be found (up to nearly the end of the volume), to have the same numbers as the tables relating to similar subjects in the statistics for each of the two last years, an agreement which may be found convenient for purposes of reference. Population, &c. Table I.

The tables in this division of the volume having been constructed and arranged on the same plan as in previous years, it will not be necessary to extend this report by more than a statement of the principal totals, with a few occasional observations, the tables themselves including various summaries, and having notes appended wherever any explanation appeared to be called for.

The immigration (over seas) to New Zealand in 1864 amounted to 20,931 persons, viz. males, 10,140 adults, and 2,742 children; and females, 5,578 adults, and 2,471 children. Immigration and emigration. Table II.

The emigration (over seas) from the Colony during the year amounted to 12,404 persons, viz. males, 10,455 adults, and 424 children; and females, 1,142 adults, and 383 children.

The net excess of immigration over emigration for the whole Colony was 8,527. Taking the Provinces separately, the gains from this source of population were, Auckland 7,671; Canterbury, 2,963; Taranaki, 585; Wellington, 168; Nelson, 117; Hawke's Bay, 45; Southland, 19; and Marlborough, 3. With respect to Otago, the balance turned on the other side, the emigration from that Province in 1864 having exceeded the immigration by 3,044 souls.

The following figures show the immigration and emigration of the year classified according to the countries from which the immigrants arrived and to which the emigrants went.

IMMIGRATION.				EMIGRATION.			
——	Males.	Females.	Total.	——	Males.	Females.	Total.
United Kingdom -	6,187	4,455	10,642	United Kingdom -	418	168	586
Australian Colonies -	5,913	3,016	8,929	Australian Colonies -	10,351	1,335	11,686
Other British Ports -	657	558	1,215	Other British Ports -	12	2	14
Foreign States - -	125	20	145	Foreign States - -	98	20	118

It thus appears that there was the following excess of immigration over emigration, viewed in relation to countries, United Kingdom, 10,086; other British ports, 1,201; Foreign states, 27; while, on the other hand, the emigration to the Australian Colonies exceeded the immigration from those colonies by 2,757.

The arrivals and departures between the several ports of New Zealand are shown in the usual form. But the table, though correct as a compilation from the returns of the emigration officers, is inadequate as a guide to the actual migration between the different Provinces, not only because many passengers are believed to have gone on board after vessels had cleared at the customs, or to have been taken up at various points on the coast where there are no emigration officers (facts by which the excess of arrivals over departures is accounted for), but also because it necessarily fails to show in any way the extent of overland migration. Migration between ports of New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND.

Births, deaths, and marriages. Tables IV., VII.

In 1864 the total number of births registered in New Zealand was 6,501, viz. 3,334 males and 3,167 females, being an increase of 1,386, viz. 693 males and 693 females, over the number in 1863.

The total number of deaths registered in 1864 was 2,921, viz. 1,758 males and 1,163 females, being 938, viz. 540 males and 398 females, more than in 1863. Of the deaths in 1864, 781, viz. 448 males and 333 females, were under one year of age; 279, viz. 148 males and 131 females, between one and two years; and 377, viz. 181 males and 196 females, between two and five; making a total of 1,437 (777 males and 660 females), or 49·19 per cent. of the whole, under five years. The general total of deaths includes 218 (viz. 195 males and 23 females) which were occasioned, not by disease, but by drowning and other external causes.

The excess of births over deaths in 1864 was 3,580, viz. 1,576 males and 2,004 females. The total excess of registered births over registered deaths in the 10 years of which a summary is given in Table V. was 21,402, viz. 10,045 males and 11,357 females.

Tables VI., VII.

The number of marriages solemnized in the Colony in 1864 was 1,878, being an increase of 393 as compared with 1863. The tables show the respective numbers of marriages in the several Provinces during each year since "The Marriage Act, 1854," came into operation, and the numbers solemnized in each year by officiating ministers of the different religious bodies and by district registrars.

Trade and interchange. Shipping. Tables VIII.—XIII.

Tables VIII., IX.

Six tables are occupied by shipping. The first two show the numbers, tonnage, and crews of vessels entered inwards and cleared outwards at the several ports of New Zealand during the year, exhibiting a total inwards of 1,117 vessels of 426,004 tonnage, and a total outwards of 1,089 vessels of 433,253 tonnage. The number of vessels inwards was 37 less, but the tonnage was 6,069 more than in 1863. Outwards the vessels numbered 5 less, but the tonnage was 38,588 more than in 1863.

Tables X., XI.

The next two tables show the particulars of vessels, tonnage, and crews classified according to the "countries whence arrived" and "countries for which cleared;" and the following two show the "nationality" of the vessels inwards and outwards. From the former it appears that, of the total of vessels inwards, 148, of 102,679 tonnage, arrived from the United Kingdom; 870 vessels, of 295,640 tonnage, from the Australian Colonies and other British Possessions; and 99, of 27,685 tonnage, from foreign countries (including the southern whale fishery). From the latter it appears that of this total,

Tables XII., XIII.

311 vessels, of 187,749 tonnage, were British; 679, of 179,305 tonnage, Colonial; 86, of 43,165 tonnage, American; 8, of 2,669 tonnage, French; 7, of 4,271 tonnage, Dutch; 8, of 2,475 tonnage, German; 5, of 1,619 tonnage, Chilian; 2, of 1,035 tonnage, Norwegian, the remainder being made up of Hanoverian, Hamburg, Bremen, Danish, Swedish, and Tahitian vessels, as specified in the table.

Registered vessels. Tables XXIX., XXX.

Tables showing the numbers of registered vessels belonging to ports of New Zealand (though placed in another part of the volume) may be conveniently noticed here. The total number, in December 1864, was 423 vessels, of 22,573 tonnage, against 343 vessels, of 15,189 tonnage, in December 1863. Of the total, 267 vessels, of 11,623 tounage, belonged to the port of Auckland.

Imports and exports. Tables XIV.—XXVIII. Imports.

The total value of the imports of the Colony in 1864 amounted to 7,000,655*l.* against 7,024,674*l.* in 1863, showing a decrease of 24,019*l.* or 0·34 per cent. In connexion with this small decrease, however, it is to be remembered that the amount of imports in 1863 was 2,398,592*l.*, or 51·84 per cent., above that of the imports in 1862; and that the amount for 1862 showed an increase of 2,132,271*l.*, or 85·50 per cent., over 1861. Considerable variations will be found in the comparative figures for the several Provinces for 1863 and 1864, as will appear from the following statement of the increase or decrease in each Province in the latter year:—

		£		Per cent.			£		Per cent.
Auckland	Increase,	1,260,992,	or	129·95	Marlborough	Increase,	4,144,	or	18·97
Taranaki	Increase,	70,416,	„	143·61	Canterbury	Decrease,	16,449,	„	1·82
Wellington	Decrease,	20,631,	„	4·94	Otago	Decrease,	964,459,	„	28·16
Hawke's Bay	Increase,	47,432,	„	93·52	Southland	Decrease,	360,969,	„	41·64
Nelson	Decrease,	44,904,	„	13·83					

Exports.

The total value of exports from New Zealand in 1864 amounted to 3,401,667*l.* against 3,485,405*l.* in 1863, being a decrease of 83,738*l.*, or 2·40 per cent. Here again a comparison of 1863 with 1862 and 1861 may appropriately be introduced. The increase in the total value of exports in 1863 was 1,062,671*l.*, or 43·86 per cent. as compared with 1862; and the amount in 1862 was 1,052,487*l.*, or 76·81 in advance of 1861.

Gold.

Referring more particularly to the two great articles of export, gold and wool, it appears that there was a decrease in the total value of gold exported in 1864, as compared with 1863, amounting to 573,876*l.*, or 23·59 per cent.; the totals in the respective years having been, in 1864, 1,857,847*l.*, and in 1863, 2,431,723*l.* Of the total value of gold exported in 1864, the following were the amounts of the produce of the gold fields in the

respective provinces :—Auckland, 10,552*l.*; Nelson, 55,841*l.*; Marlborough, 96,241*l.*; Canterbury, 5,670*l.*; Otago, 1,689,543*l.*

Wool.

The value of wool exported from the Colony in 1864 was 1,070,997*l.*, against 830,495*l.* in 1863, being an increase of 240,502*l.*, or 28·95 per cent. The increase in 1863 was 156,269*l.*, or 23·17 per cent. as compared with 1862.

Details of imports and exports. Tables XVIII. XIX.

Tables XVIII. and XIX. show the details of imports and exports at the several ports of the Colony in 1864, and the nine following tables contain comparative summaries presenting compendiously the totals of the principal articles of export in 1864 as compared with previous years. Separate tables of this description are appropriated to gold, grain, Kauri gum, oil, potatoes, timber, and wool, distinguishing the exports from the several Provinces. Two preceding tables (XVI., XVII.), give this information in a still more condensed form, showing the total value of imports and exports for the successive years from 1853 to 1864 inclusive.

Comparative summaries. (Tables XX.—XXVIII.)

Tables XVI., XVII.

Revenue of Colony. Tables XXXI.—XXXVII.

In 1864 the customs revenue amounted to 592,316*l.*, against 592,050*l.* in 1863, being an increase of 296*l.* The advance in 1863, however, was 192,614*l.*, or 48·22 per cent., which was an advance over 1861 of 138,573*l.*, or 53·12 per cent.

The total ordinary revenue in 1864 amounted to 815,676*l.*, being an increase of 73,172*l.*, or 9·85 per cent., as compared with 1863. In 1863 there was an increase, as compared with 1862, of 234,172*l.*, or 46·06 per cent.

The total territorial revenue in 1864 was 714,770*l.*, being an increase of 190,366*l.*, or 36·30 per cent., as compared with 1863. In 1863, this branch of revenue exhibited a decrease of 82,426*l.*, or 13·58 per cent., as compared with 1862; but the territorial revenue of 1862 showed an increase of 259,476*l.*, or 74·70 per cent., as compared with 1861.

The total of the revenue, both ordinary and territorial, amounted in 1864 to 1,530,446*l.*, being an increase, as compared with 1863, of 263,538*l.*, or 20·80 per cent. The total in 1863 showed an increase, as compared with 1862, of 151,746*l.*, or 13·60 per cent. The total in 1862 showed an increase, as compared with 1861, of 443,662*l.*, or 66·07 per cent.

The following table presents a comparative view of the revenue, ordinary and territorial, of the several Provinces in 1863 and 1864, marking the centesimal increase or decrease for each Province in the latter year.

Provinces.	Ordinary Revenue.			Territorial Revenue.			Total Ordinary and Territorial.		
	1863.	1864.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.	1863.	1864.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.	1863.	1864.	Centesimal Increase.
	£	£		£	£		£	£	
Auckland - - -	120,122	184,920	53·94	7,630	14,566	90·90	127,752	199,486	56·15
Taranaki - - -	14,774	26,436	78·93	30	—	—	14,804	26,436	78·57
Wellington - - -	58,714	76,429	30·17	25,153	44,945	78·68	83,867	121,374	44·72
Hawke's Bay - - -	13,219	18,345	38·77	15,223	20,420	34·13	28,442	38,765	36·29
Nelson - - -	36,842	37,683	2·28	26,170	26,661	1·87	63,012	64,344	2·11
Marlborough - - -	4,954	10,879	119·60	44,791	39,487	decr.11·84	49,745	50,366	1·24
Canterbury - - -	97,466	114,092	17·05	205,164	251,281	22·47	302,630	365,373	20·73
Otago - - -	319,805	284,617	decr.11·00	149,989	247,922	65·29	469,794	532,539	13·35
Southland - - -	76,463	62,098	decr.18·78	50,254	69,488	38·27	126,717	131,586	3·84
Chatham and Stewart's Islands in 1863, and Chatham Islands only in 1864 - -	145	177	22·06	—	—	—	145	177	22·06
	742,504	815,676	9·85	524,404	714,770	36·30	1,266,908	1,530,466	20·80

Income and expenditure. (Tables XXXII., XXXIII., XXXIV.)

The income and expenditure are shown in three tables. The first exhibits, on opposite pages, the income and expenditure in their different branches as relating to the Colonial Treasury and to the Provincial Treasuries (taken collectively). The two succeeding tables show the income and expenditure of the several Provinces (taken separately).

(Table XXXV.)

A table follows which shows in detail the receipts and disbursements of the receivers of land revenue in the several Provinces.

Funded debt. (Table XXXVI.)

The funded debt of the General and Provincial Governments on the 31st December 1864 is shown in a table which specifies the authority under which each liability was incurred, the amount authorized to be borrowed, the amount of debentures in circulation, the rates of interest, the rates of sinking funds, when the debentures are redeemable, the amounts of sinking fund accrued, and what amounts are invested and in what manner. It will of course be understood that the information comes down only to the date stated in the heading of the table, viz. December 31st, 1864. On that date the total amount authorized to to be borrowed by the General and

NEW ZEALAND.

Provincial Governments was 6,329,000*l.* The total amount of debentures in circulation was 2,219,450*l.* The total amount of sinking funds accrued was 89,724*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*

Joint stock companies. (Table XXXVIII.)

The joint stock companies incorporated under the Acts of the General Assembly of 1860 and 1862 are enumerated (with the addition of various particulars relating to them respectively) in Table No. XXXVIII. The total number of companies established to the end of 1864 was 45, of which one was incorporated in 1861, 13 in 1862, 19 in 1863; and 12 in 1864.

Land sales. (Tables XXXIX., XL., XLI.)

Three tables are occupied by information respecting the land sales in the Colony from April 1st, 1856 (the earliest date to which it could be carried back with accuracy). The first of these shows the waste lands sold or otherwise disposed of in the several Provinces during the year 1864; the second contains a summary of the totals for each Province during the entire period from April 1856 to December 1864; the third, by a classification relating to time rather than to locality, shows the totals for the whole Colony during each year of the period included.

Prices of provisions, &c. (Table XLII.)

The average prices of provisions and live stock in the several Provinces in the year 1864 are shown on the same plan as in previous years.

Post Office. (Tables XLIII. to XLIX.)

Seven tables are devoted to information connected with the post office in 1864. They show the numbers of letters and newspapers respectively received at and despatched from the several chief post offices in the Colony, and separately the numbers of letters despatched to places out of the Colony, specifying the offices from which they were despatched and the places of their destination.

Postal revenue. (Table XLVIII.)

The postal revenue in the several Provinces for the years 1858 to 1864 inclusive is detailed in a comparative table It will be seen that the total amount in 1864 was 39,198*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, being an increase of 6,869*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, or 21·24 per cent. on the revenue in 1863. The amount in 1863 showed an advance of 9,618*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, or 42·35 per cent. on 1862; and that for 1862 showed an advance of 8,602*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*, or 60·97 per cent. on 1861.

Money orders. Table XLIX.)

The total number of money orders issued in New Zealand in 1864 was 16,591 against 11,586 in 1863. The total amount of these orders in 1864 was 78,556*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, against 55,703*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* in 1863. The total number of money orders paid in New Zealand in 1864 was 5,619, against 3,040 in 1863. The total amount of these orders in 1864 was 26,467*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, against 14,070*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* in 1863.

Legal and criminal statistics. (Tables L. to LIX.)

In a series of ten tables the legal and criminal statistics of the Colony for 1864 are shown, including the criminal and the civil cases brought before the Supreme Court and the resident magistrates' courts respectively, distinguishing in the latter class the cases, whether criminal or civil, in which Europeans or Maories, or both, were concerned.

(Tables LIV.)

In Table No. LIV. will be found a comparative summary showing the number of convictions for each of the most frequent offences in the resident magistrates' courts in each year from 1853 to 1864 inclusive.

(Table LIX.)

The last table of this series shows the numbers committed to gaol during 1864, specifying the sexes, the causes of imprisonment, the native countries, the classes, and the degree of education of the prisoners. The total number committed was 4,144, viz. 3,691 males and 453 females.

Savings banks. (Table LX.)

With respect to savings banks, Table No. LX. shows the number of those valuable institutions in operation in New Zealand during the year 1864, specifying the dates at which they were respectively established, the number of depositors, the total amounts to the credit of such depositors on the 31st of December 1864, and the amounts deposited and withdrawn during the year. The total number of persons having deposits in these banks in December 1864 was 4,669, against 2,371 in December 1863, and 1,496 in December 1862. The total amount to the credit of such depositors, in December 1864, was 94,248*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, against 44,117*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* in December 1863, and 29,768*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* in December 1862.

Appendix.

Meteorology. (Appendix A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I.)

The Appendix to Part II. is wholly devoted to meteorological tables, commencing with a comparative table of the climate in 1864 at a number of the principal places in New Zealand; after which, in a series of eight tables, are given meteorological observations in that year at Mongonui, Auckland, Taranaki, Napier, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, and Dunedin. The anticipation which I expressed in my report on the statistics of 1863—(that "the meteorological returns for 1864 would be found more "complete and satisfactory")—has thus been realized to a gratifying extent, these tables containing fuller information on this interesting subject than was available for 1863 or any previous year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN B. BENNETT, Registrar-General.

EASTERN COLONIES.

CEYLON.

No. 23.

CEYLON.

No. 23.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir Hercules Robinson to the Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, M.P.

(No. 134.) Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon,
September 16, 1865.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book of Ceylon for the year 1864.

2. As I was not in the Island during any portion of the past year, having arrived here only in March last, I shall confine my remarks on this occasion to a brief summary of the principal returns now submitted, which appear to me, on the whole, to show satisfactory results.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue for the year was 867,728*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, which shows a decrease of 85,062*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* as compared with the revenue of 1863, which amounted to 952,790*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* This is mainly attributable to the fact that there was no pearl fishery at Aripo in 1864, a sum of 51,017*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* having been realized from this source in the previous year. Under the head Customs also there is a decrease of 5,186*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* on imports, and of 6,884*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* on exports. The decrease in the former item is ascribed to a falling off in the importation of grain, in consequence of the scarcity and high price of that article in India; the decrease in the exports arose from a diminution in the quantity of coffee exported. Under the head Land Revenue there is a decrease to the extent of no less than 29,504*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*, caused chiefly by the failure of paddy crops throughout the Island in consequence of excessive drought. There is an increase of 2,754*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* under the head Toll Rents, arising from increased traffic, and of 5,671*l.* on account of the arrack rents owing to the higher prices realized for the rents. The increase under the head Stamps, amounting to 7,530*l.*, was derived chiefly from stamps sold under the provisions of the Land Registration Ordinance.

4. Although, however, the revenue of last year was, for the reasons explained, below that of 1863, it was largely in excess of all previous years, and is more than double that of 1854, as will be seen from the following statement:—

Year.	Revenue. £
1854	408,041
1855	476,273
1856	504,174
1857	578,028
1858	654,961
1859	747,037
1860	767,100
1861	751,997
1862	759,135
1863	952,790
1864	867,728

5. The total ordinary expenditure of the year amounted to 843,291*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* The excess of revenue over expenditure was therefore 24,436*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* In addition to the above amount of 843,291*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*, the sum of 250,000*l.* was expended under the Surplus Fund Ordinance towards the construction of the railway between Colombo and Kandy.

6. The total ordinary expenditure of last year may be classed as follows:—

	£
Military	137,743
Public works	202,786
Other services	502,762
	£843,291

The military charges given above are, however, exclusive of commissariat establishment the military share of which may fairly be estimated at 3,500*l.*

7. The public works expenditure given includes the cost of the establishment, which amounts to 23,834*l.*

8. As compared with the expenditure of the preceding year, that of 1864 shows an increase of 105,097*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* The following are the principal items of increase:—Establishments, 21,445*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, caused chiefly by the salaries for December 1864 having been paid in the same month, in pursuance of the arrangement sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government that the salaries of public officers should be paid at the end of each month instead of the commencement of the following month, so that the salaries of 13 months were brought to account in 1864. Under the heads Public Works and Roads, Streets, and Bridges the increases amount to 7,059*l.* 18*s.* 0*d.* and 37,132*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* respectively. The increased expenditure under these heads necessarily caused an increase under the colonial commissariat to the extent of 10,189*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*; and the sum of 30,000*l.* appears as an increase under the head Contribution towards military expenditure.

Assets and Liabilities.

9. The Auditor General's return of assets and liabilities shows that on the 1st January 1865 the total amount of assets at that date was 401,499*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, and the amount of liabilities 131,258*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, leaving an apparent balance in favour of the Ceylon Government of 270,240*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* This amount is however liable to a further charge of 46,285*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* on account of works and services chargeable on balances, which reduces the actual excess of assets over liabilities at the commencement of the present year to 223,955*l.* 9*s.* Amongst the assets also appears a sum of 76,779*l.* on account of revenue debts outstanding, of which 37,513*l.* is considered irrecoverable, and will have to be struck off the returns on authority being obtained from Her Majesty's Government, and 4,282*l.* is awaiting the decision of courts of law.

10. In the return which the Auditor General prepared of the net available surplus on 1st January last, and which accompanied my Despatch No. 49, of the 4th June last, the whole of the outstanding revenue at the close of last year, viz., 76,779*l.*, was omitted, as were also certain balances due by and to the Colonial Government, which appear in the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, and which show a balance in favour of the Colony of about 19,800*l.* The exclusion of these items left a net unappropriated balance on the 1st January last of over 127,000*l.* available for public purposes, as shown by the Auditor-General in the return above referred to; but it has since been ascertained, as reported in my Despatch No. 130, of the 14th inst., that the real net unappropriated balance on the 1st January last exceeded this sum by 27,000*l.*

11. In the foregoing statement of assets and liabilities no account is taken of liabilities to the extent of 576,812*l.* incurred on account of Ceylon Government debentures sold in England for railway purposes, because special funds have been appropriated to meet these liabilities by Ordinance No. 7 of 1864.

12. The balance in hand on railway account in Ceylon and in England on the 31st December 1864 was 242,926*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*

Military Expenditure.

13. The total expense incurred in Ceylon last year on account of the military defence of the Colony was 195,693*l.*, which was borne by the mother country and the Colony in the following proportions:—

	£
Great Britain - - - -	57,950
Ceylon - - - - -	137,743
	195,693

Imports and Exports.

14. The customs returns show that there was an increase of 165,078*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* in the value of goods imported in 1864, as compared with 1863, and a decrease of 517,537*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* in the exports, the value being:—

Imports.

1863 - - -	£3,590,832 18 9
1864 - - -	3,755,911 6 11

CEYLON.

Exports.

1863 - - -	£3,179,184	11 9
1864 - - -	2,661,647	4 6

15. These figures do not include the specie imported and exported. Adding these the total value of the imports and exports of 1864, as compared with those of the preceding year, stands thus :—

Imports.

1863 - - -	£5,433,806	10 7
1864 - - -	5,526,964	3 4

Exports.

1863 - - -	£3,587,234	6 5
1864 - - -	3,112,268	15 6

16. Of imports, the principal items of increase are :—

Cotton goods from Great Britain -	£436,972
Ditto, twist - - - -	36,472
Malt liquors, wines, and spirits -	36,235
Coal and coke - - -	16,674
Railway materials - - -	42,315

17. Guano to the value of 40,928*l.* was imported from Buenos Ayres, Bolivia, and Peru, from which countries there had been no imports during the several previous years.

18. There was a decrease in rice, paddy, and other grain imported of 620,111 bushels, the quantity imported in 1864 being 4,810,506 bushels, against 5,430,617 bushels in 1863. The collector of customs states that this decrease is owing to the cyclone which took place at Calcutta in October last, on which occasion many cargoes destined for this Island were lost.

19. The decrease in the value of exports is attributable chiefly to a falling off in the quantity of coffee exported in 1864, which was 671,164 cwts., whilst in 1863 it was 828,587 cwts., showing a decrease of 157,423 cwts. In cocoa-nut oil and cinnamon there was a slight increase in 1864, the quantities exported being as follows :—

Cocoa-nut Oil.

	Gallons.
1863 - - - - -	1,878,585
1864 - - - - -	2,249,402

Cinnamon.

	lbs.
1863 - - - - -	734,038
1864 - - - - -	776,675

20. The revenue derived from imports and exports in 1864 was 271,258*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, showing a decrease of 8,848*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* as compared with that of the preceding year, which amounted to 280,107*l.* 14*s.* Adding to the above sum the port dues, warehouse rent, and forfeitures, viz., 9,133*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*, the total customs revenue for 1864 amounted to 280,392*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*

21. I append to this Despatch a return of exports of coffee, cinnamon, cocoa-nut oil, and coir, for the last 10 years; return of the total value of imports and exports (including specie and bullion) in the years 1862, 1863, and 1864; and a statement of the number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in the same years.

22. With reference to the return of the value of imports and exports, however, I think it well to explain the system of valuation adopted here, as otherwise the return is likely to cause misconception. The imports for last year are given at their value on their arrival in this market; the exports for the same period at the supposed cost of their production before shipment. The consequence is, that the former appear to exceed the latter in value by upwards of a million sterling, as follows :—

1864.	£
Imports, exclusive of specie	3,755,911
Deduct imports exported	410,701
Total goods imported and retained in Colony	3,345,210
Exports, exclusive of specie	2,661,647
Deduct imports exported	410,701
Total Island produce exported	2,250,946

23. But if the imports had thus exceeded in value the exports, the balance of trade against the Colony would have had to be adjusted by the transmission from the Island of specie, and the foreign exchanges under such circumstances would necessarily have been at a premium, because the demand for bills would have exceeded the supply. The reverse, however, was really the case. Specie was imported largely during 1864, and exchange on London (six months' sight) varied from 5 to 8 per cent. discount. The return of specie imported during last year shows the following result:—

	£
Specie imported	1,771,052
,, exported	450,621
Specie imported and retained in Colony	1,320,431

24. The total value of goods and specie imported and retained in the Colony during 1864 stands therefore at 4,665,641*l.*, and as the imports in a colony such as Ceylon, whether goods or specie, are merely the returns received by the Colony in exchange for its exports, excepting, of course, such portion of the imports as may represent capital introduced and sunk in the opening of new estates, it follows, I think, that the amount realized for the exports in the markets to which they were consigned may fairly be estimated at not less than 4,500,000*l.*, making the total real value of the imports and exports of last year upwards of nine millions sterling.

Public Works.

25. I forward the following documents * required by Her Majesty's Government, in addition to the return of public works included among the Blue Book returns:— * Not printed.

Estimated expenditure out of surplus funds for 1865.
Analytical statement of progress of public works borne on the budget of 1865.
Progress of expenditure on Surplus Fund Ordinances from 1857 to 1864, and the estimated expenditure for 1865.
Profit and loss on works undertaken as remunerative from ditto to ditto, ditto.

26. I enclose also copy of a report by the Civil Engineer and Commissioner of Roads on the state of the Public Works Department, and a report on the progress and expenditure on roads and receipts from tolls for the year 1864.

27. From the abstract attached to the Blue Book return, it will be seen that the total expenditure on public works during the past year amounted to 220,019*l.* 6*s.* 6¾*d.*, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Government money	173,474	7	8
Commutation money paid in assessment for labour under the Road Ordinance and private contribution	23,020	15	1
Cost of establishment	23,524	3	9¾
	£220,019	6	6¾

28. There is a slight discrepancy between these figures and those referred to before under the head of Revenue and Expenditure, as no notice is taken in the return of public works of surcharges, payments made by the Crown agents, and other items of which the civil engineer has no cognizance.

29. As compared with 1863 the expenditure of 1864 shows an excess of 42,381*l.* 4*s.* 0¾*d.*, that for 1863 being only 177,638*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

30. The amount expended in opening new roads was 22,223*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*, viz., 17,962*l.* 14*s.* 8¾*d.* Government money, and 4,260*l.* 17*s.* 5¼*d.* private contributions. The following are some of the principal roads in course of construction last year:—

Western Province.

	£	s.	d.
Road from Palmadulla to Balangodde and to Haldoomulle -	7,396	9	10
Road from Marandahn to Korteboon - - - -	1,170	19	9
Road from Government Factory to railway station Marandahn -	950	0	0
Road from Warkapolle to the railway station at Keenadenia -	991	11	$2\frac{3}{4}$

Central Province.

Road from Dimboola Gap towards Nana Oya:—						
Private contribution - - -	£2,003	2	$5\frac{1}{4}$			
Government money - - -	2,240	15	$2\frac{1}{4}$			
				4,243	17	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Road from Rajawella Gap to Meddema Newera - -				21	9	8
Road from present cutting to Zig Zag or Ambelam - -				1,016	12	$4\frac{3}{4}$
Road from end of present cutting to Dimboola Gap - -				39	12	$7\frac{1}{4}$
Road from foot of Zig Zag to Kershaw's Bridge:—						
Private contribution - - -	£2,257	15	0			
Government money - - -	2,111	12	$2\frac{3}{4}$			
				4,369	7	$2\frac{3}{4}$
Road from Pangwelle to Dotelle Estate - - -				1,909	4	11

31. The amount expended on the repair and up-keep of roads, streets, and canals was 127,593*l.* 7*s.* $6\frac{3}{4}$*d.*, viz.:—

Government money - - -	£108,856	9	11
Road Ordinance funds - - -	18,736	17	$7\frac{3}{4}$

The cost of the repair of the road from Colombo to Galle, Matura, Tangalle, and Hambantotte was 8,113*l.* 0*s.* $5\frac{3}{4}$*d.*, the receipts from tolls being 7,489*l.* The expenditure on the road from Colombo to Kandy was 37,717*l.* 12*s.* $1\frac{1}{2}$*d.* The receipts from tolls on this road amounted to 37,070*l.*

32. The sum expended for new bridges was 6,995*l.* 5*s.* $6\frac{1}{4}$*d.* Sixteen new bridges were undertaken last year, of which six were completed. The following are the principal ones:—

Western Province.

	£	s.	d.
An iron lattice bridge at Gettehette, on the Ratnapoora road	1,158	12	$9\frac{3}{4}$

Southern Province.

Five timber bridges 20 ft. span each in the Tangalle embankment - - - - - -	320	0	0
An iron bridge, 50 ft., at Sinnemodere - - -	570	10	0

Central Province.

An iron 100-ft. lattice bridge over the Nalanda Oya - -	218	2	$10\frac{3}{4}$
An iron 100-ft. lattice bridge over the Ratotte Oya on the road to Opalgalle - - - - -	2,225	2	$6\frac{1}{2}$
An iron 120-ft. do. over the Mahatetelle River on the Nuwera Ellia and Badulla road - - - - -	875	19	5
An iron 80-ft. iron lattice bridge over the Dambool Oya -	1,474	18	$10\frac{1}{2}$

33. On the repair of bridges an expenditure of 3,854*l.* 2*s.* $10\frac{1}{4}$*d.* was incurred.

34. The expenditure on new buildings amounted to 8,977*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* The following were the most important of the buildings in progress last year:—

Western Province.

	£	s.	d.
Extending the customs accommodation in front of Leyden Bastion - - - - - - - -	1,634	14	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Singhalese Church, Colombo - - - - -	297	13	7
Industrial School buildings - - - - -	200	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Southern Province.			
New gaol at Galle - - - - - -	2,200	0	0
Grain shed at do. - - - - - -	700	0	0
Northern Province.			
Building to be used as a cutcherry office at Annoorajapoora -	356	4	7
Buildings required for the service of the Public Works Department - - - - - - -	555	16	$9\frac{1}{2}$
Additional accommodation to the Jaffna cutcherry - -	366	7	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Central Province.			
Hospital for sick immigrant coolies at Dambool - -	471	12	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Extension of the Pauper Hospital at Matelle - - -	250	0	0
Residence for the police magistrate at Pangwille - -	374	4	0
Court-house at Dambool - - - - -	311	5	$7\frac{3}{4}$
Gaol at Dambool - - - - - -	230	11	$3\frac{1}{2}$

35. The amount expended on the repair of existing buildings was 5,524*l.* 14*s.* $2\frac{1}{4}$*d.*, and on drainage, construction, and repair of ferry boats and general service, 3,602*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*

36. On miscellaneous services, including the purchase of tools, the working of the factory, Colombo, the purchase of draught cattle, subsistence of sick and newly-caught elephants, the importation of pioneers and labourers from the continent of India, there was an expenditure of 17,701*l.* 8*s.* $3\frac{1}{2}$*d.*

37. The above items are exclusive of the expenditure on military works, which amounted to 14,159*l.* 16*s.* $8\frac{3}{4}$*d.*

Government Houses at Colombo, Galle, and Kandy.

38. I enclose the report* of the Civil Engineer on the state of these buildings. It will be seen that the Queen's House at Colombo and the Pavilion at Kandy require certain repairs. I have sanctioned estimates for such of the repairs as are urgent, to be charged against the general vote allowed for the repairs of Government buildings. The Queen's house at Galle is reported to be in a good state of repair. From the enclosed report † of the Deputy Commissary General it will be seen that the furniture of the Queen's House at Colombo and the Pavilion at Kandy has been maintained in serviceable order.

* Not printed.

† Not printed.

Surveying Department.

39. The progress made in the Surveyor General's Department is satisfactory, as will be seen from the enclosed report furnished by the gentleman who lately held that office. Colonel Sim states that the "work in 1864 surpasses every other year's returns in every "respect; a greater number of acres have been disposed of, a larger amount received, "and more title plans issued for deeds than in any year since 1844, when the price per "acre was raised to 1*l.*;" that "3,542 lots, covering 34,122 acres, have produced the "sum of 76,567*l.*, of which 6,381*l.* are due to fees."

40. The total extent of Crown lands sold in 1864 was 30,294 acres, which realized 65,716*l.*, whilst in 1863 the extent sold was 28,003 acres, and the amount realized 61,407*l.*

41. In the Western Province the receipts have exceeded those of the Central Province, viz., 34,794*l.* from the former against 33,334*l.* from the latter. This, it is explained by the Surveyor General, arose from the circumstance of the valley of Deck Oya having lately been declared within the limits of the Western Province, and from the fact of land having been purchased in the Saffragam District for the purposes of coffee cultivation. The extent of land sold in this province was 13,733 acres, which realized 29,939*l.* against 4,288 acres in 1863, which were sold for 9,270*l.*

42. In the Central Province the extent disposed of in 1864 was less than in 1863, viz.:—

1864, 13,469 acres sold for - - - - -	£30,138
1863, 19,409 „ - - - - -	40,378

43. In the Southern Province, too, there has been a falling off as compared with the sales of 1863; 926 acres were sold for 3,006*l.* in 1864, whilst in 1863 the extent sold was 1,217 acres, and the amount realized, 7,319*l.*

CEYLON.

44. The results of the sales of Crown lands in the other provinces are as follows:—

Eastern Province, 1,007 acres sold for - - - -	£1,460
North-western Province, 986 acres sold for - - -	1,496
Northern Province, 173 acres sold for - - - -	277

45. In addition to the Crown lands sold, 3,828 acres were alienated as encroachments sold or given at a valuation, free grants or settlements for certificates against the Crown, and the amount realized therefrom was 4,470*l.*

46. Besides the surveys of lands for sales, the Surveyor General's Department was employed in surveys of Temple lands, lands required for the railway, road tracings, and old grants, the details of which will be found in the interesting report of the Surveyor General.

47. In the concluding paragraph of his report, the Surveyor General adverts to a letter addressed by him to the Government on the subject of the health of the officers of his Department, and in which he recommended that officers on the provisional list should be allowed leave of absence to proceed to England. This letter was forwarded to you with Major-General O'Brien's Despatch No. 237, of the 29th October last, in which he submitted the Surveyor-General's recommendation for your favourable consideration.

Electric Telegraph.

* Not printed.

48. I enclose the report* of the officiating Superintendent of Telegraphs on the working of the lines during 1864.

49. Of the new line from Trincomalie to Kandy, sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government, the portion as far as Dambool, 69 miles from Trincomalie, has been completed. This line was opened in November last, the communication with Kandy being maintained by means of an office of observation established at Dambool, through which station the line from Kandy to Manaar passes. Forty-five miles have yet to be constructed to connect the Trincomalie line direct with Kandy. This portion of the work is now in progress, and will, it is expected, be completed in the course of this year.

50. The additional line between Colombo and Galle has been completed, so that there are now two lines of communication between these stations. It is to be regretted that the wire sent out for this line has been found to be of so inferior a description as it is represented to be by the Superintendent of Telegraphs.

51. The existing lines from Colombo to Galle and to Kandy, and from Kandy to Dambool and Tallamanaar, have been repaired during the year, and strengthened by replacing the old and decayed posts with new ones.

52. It has been decided to transfer to the line of railway, on its completion, the telegraph wires of the present line on the road between Colombo and Kandy, the wires to be placed on iron posts (Hamilton's supports) instead of the wooden posts now used in Ceylon. The details of this proposal were submitted to you in my Despatch No. 45, of the 31st May last.

53. The general results given by the officiating superintendent of the working of the Department are satisfactory. The total number of messages despatched and received during the year was 24,433, exceeding that of 1863 (22,469) by 1,964. The total value of messages transmitted through the Ceylon lines was 10,840*l.* 14*s.* 11½*d.*, of which a sum of 2,760*l.* 7*s.* 0¾*d.* was due to the Indian Government, and, deducting the value of public news messages and messages sent free by order, the net receipts for the year amounted to 7,595*l.* 14*s.* 9¼*d.*, which is slightly in excess of the receipts of 1863, viz., 7,547*l.* 4*s.* 5¼*d.* The total expenditure of the Department during the year amounted to 7,197*l.* 9*s.* 11½*d.*, which includes a sum of 188*l.* 0*s.* 10½*d.* expended on the repairs of the lines, and 1,892*l.* 13*s.* 0½*d.* on the construction of new lines, leaving 5,116*l.* 16*s.* 0½*d.* as the actual working expenses of the Department. The profit to Government on the operations of last year amounted to 398*l.* 4*s.* 9¾*d.*

Railway.

54. A report of the progress made in the construction of the railway up to the 30th June 1864 was forwarded with Major-General O'Brien's Despatch No. 197, of the 30th August last.† I enclose a report from the Chief Resident Engineer for the half year ending 31st December 1864.

† Not printed.

55. The general progress of the half year is represented by 70,000*l.*, out of which 14,000*l.* are represented by materials received from England, making the total amount executed nearly half of the gross total of the contract.

56. The first division of 30 miles is almost completed. The engine is now able to run as far as the 27th mile, and the line will be opened for traffic as far as the 35th mile on the 1st of October next.

57. It appears that but little progress was made on the second division during the half year. The works were suspended during the unhealthy season, but operations have again commenced.

58. The headings of the Ambepusse tunnel have met two months earlier than had been anticipated, and the tunnel is now completed.

59. On the third division good progress has been made in tunnels, Nos. 1 and 3; but in Nos. 5 and 8 the progress has been below the average.

60. In bridges and culverts but little progress was made, owing chiefly to the difficulty of obtaining masons, especially on the incline.

61. The works at the Colombo station have been pushed on, and but little more can be done until the arrival of materials from England. The Ambepusse station has also been commenced, and is progressing towards completion.

62. The total amount of the different works executed from the commencement to the end of December 1864 is as follows:—

The earthwork completed amounts to nearly half of the total value.
Tunnel works executed amount to rather more than one-third of the whole.
In bridges three-fifths of the whole have been done.
In culverts more than one-third of the total.
In retaining walls about one-eighth of the whole.
In stations rather more than one-fourth of the whole.
In permanent way and materials delivered at Colombo rather more than one-half.
In sundry work and contingencies rather more than one-half.

63. The total value of works under the contract is - -	£873,039
Value of work done to the 31st December 1864 - -	425,828
Remaining -	447,211
Equal per month, for 25 months - . - -	17,888

Legislation.

64. Of the ordinances enacted in 1864, Nos. 1 and 2 were passed at the commencement of the year and form a portion of the legislation of the Session of 1863. These were noticed by Major General O'Brien in his Despatch No. 197, of the 30th August 1864.

65. Ordinance No. 1, "to consolidate and amend in certain respects the law touching "Justices of the Peace, and the Administration of Justice in Criminal Cases," was afterwards amended by Ordinance No. 17 of 1864, in pursuance of instructions from the Secretary of State.

66. The object of Ordinance No. 2, amending Ordinance No. 26 of 1852, as explained in the Despatch referred to, was to prevent persons selling salt on behalf of Government from demanding a higher price than that fixed by Government.

67. Twenty Ordinances were enacted during the Session of 1864. Two of these were passed at the commencement of the present year, it not having been practicable to close the Session last year.

68. Ordinances Nos. 3, 6, and 7 have reference to the Ceylon railway. The first authorizes the appropriation of a sum of 250,000*l.* from the surplus revenue of past years towards payment of the expenses of constructing the railway; No. 6 lays down rules for the management of the railway; No. 7 makes certain amendments in the Ordinance No. 19 of 1862 for raising 1,000,000*l.* on debentures for the construction of the railway, and also makes provision for the formation of a sinking fund.

69. No. 4, "to amend the Ordinance No. 24 of 1848, entitled an Ordinance to "regulate the felling and removal of timber grown in the Crown lands in this Island," was brought forward in consequence of frequent representations which had from time to time been made to the Government of the inadequacy of the former penalties to restrain the destruction of Crown property.

70. No. 5, "to regulate the temporal affairs of churches not provided for in the "Ordinance No. 12 of 1846," re-enacts the provisions of the Ordinance No. 11 of 1863, with certain alterations suggested by the Secretary of State. The object of this ordinance was explained in Major-General O'Brien's Despatch No. 197, of the 30th August 1864.

71. Ordinance No. 8, "to extend the operation of the Ordinance No. 17 of 1844, "entitled an Ordinance for establishing an efficient police in certain towns, &c.," was

CEYLON.

enacted with a view of providing means for the execution of the processes issued by unofficial Justices of the Peace, the want of which had from time to time been strongly urged on the Government.

72. Ordinances Nos. 9, 10, and 11 authorize the establishment of tolls at certain places on different roads, in order to provide for the up-keep and maintenance of the roads.

73. No. 12, " to provide for the production in evidence of copies instead of originals " of public documents," was enacted with a view to obviate the inconvenience arising from the necessity of public officers being frequently required to attend courts to produce original documents.

74. No. 13, " for regulating the sale of bread and preventing its adulteration," was rendered necessary in consequence of the absence of any law bearing on this subject. Its provisions are taken mainly from the English statute relating to the subject.

75. No. 14, " for amending the Ordinance No. 1 of 1858, and No. 11 of 1859," was enacted with the sanction of Her Majesty's Government with a view to revising the salaries of clerks and other public officers. It provides for an increase to the salaries of those officers under the Government who are remunerated at rates not exceeding 300*l.* a year by classification for the higher ranks, and by specific rates for the lower.

76. No. 15 appropriates 104,728*l.* for the supplementary contingent charges of the year 1864.

77. No. 16, relating to the military expenditure of the Colony, was enacted in pursuance of instructions received from Her Majesty's Government. It authorizes the payment to the Secretary of State for War, from the 1st January 1865, of a sum of 100,000*l.* a year from the revenues of the Colony as a fixed commutation for certain specified military services and expenditure for military works and buildings, leaving certain other specified military services (estimated at 35,000*l.* a year) to be paid as theretofore by the Colony; the fixed contribution to be increased after the 1st January 1867 to 135,000*l.* by annual augmentation of 10,000*l.*

78. This arrangement is pending the inquiry into the question of the military expenditure of the Colony, which was ordered by Her Majesty's Government, and which is now being prosecuted by the Commissioners sent out from England, and those appointed by me in conformity with your instructions.

79. No. 18 confirms certain rules and orders of district courts framed by Judges of the Supreme Court.

80. No. 1 of 1865 provides for the contingent charges of the year 1865.

81. In the Ordinance No. 2 of 1865, " to amend the Land Registration Ordinance " No. 8 of 1863," certain modifications suggested by the Secretary of State have been introduced, as well as a few other amendments the neeessity for which had been suggested by the practical working of the measure.

Population.

82. The total population of all classes of inhabitants for 1864 is stated in the returns to be 2,051,109, whereas in the return for 1863 the total number was given at 2,342,098, showing a decrease in 1864 as compared with the previous year of 290,989. As it was evident that this difference must have arisen from some error in the statements furnished, I directed an explanation to be called for from the Government Agents for the Western and Eastern provinces, in whose returns the discrepancy chiefly appeared; and I enclose copies of letters received in reply from these officers. The returns for 1864 are supposed to approach nearer to accuracy, and those for 1863 are stated to be incorrect. It is quite clear however that these returns, which are prepared by the local head men, cannot be relied upon, and that accurate information as to the population of the Island can only be obtained by a properly regulated census.

Public Health.

83. From the enclosed report of the Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer it will be seen that the state of the public health during the year was very unsatisfactory. This is ascribed in a great measure to the unprecedented drought which prevailed in the first few months of the year; the rains which fell after the long-continued dry weather producing fevers, diarrhœa, and dysentery in different parts of the Island.

84. Small pox and cholera prevailed during the greater part of the year. Cholera made its appearance in February among the natives assembled for the pearl fishery, which was ultimately abandoned on its being discovered that there were no oysters fit for fishing. From this spot the disease spread to Trincomalie, Negombo, and other stations on the sea

coast. It afterwards appeared among the Malabar immigrants on the road from the north to Kandy, and then extended to other stations, Kandy, Jaffna, and other towns having communication with immigrant labourers. It appeared in Colombo in the month of June, when it lasted only for a short time; but it broke out again in that town in August, having been introduced by the Roman Catholic pilgrims returning from St. Anna's Church at Putlam. It then assumed an epidemic form; and it appears that every station in the Island was visited with the disease, excepting Trincomalee and Hambantotte. The number of cases reported throughout the Island was 3,578, and the number of deaths 2,157; whilst in 1863 the number of cases was only 19 and of deaths 6. The largest number occurred in the Northern Province, where this disease generally prevails throughout the greater part of the year. The number of cases there was 2,325, and the number of deaths 1,339. The following are the numbers in the other Provinces:—

	Cases.	Deaths.
Western Province - -	287	191
North-western do. - -	38	31
Southern do. - -	6	4
Eastern do. - -	283	179
Central do. - -	639	226

85. Small pox, of which several cases remained at the end of 1863, continued throughout the whole of last year. It prevailed almost at every station in the Island, but chiefly in Colombo, Jaffna, Kandy, and Matelle. It declined towards the end of the year, the number of cases reported on the 31st December being only six. The total number of cases in the whole Island was 1,207, and the number of deaths 174. In 1863 the number of cases was 2,661, and the number of deaths 502; the rate of mortality being 14 per cent. in 1864, and 18 per cent. in 1863.

86. The ordinance for making vaccination compulsory has been brought into operation in Colombo and Kandy, and is working satisfactorily. The total number vaccinated in 1864 was 74,811, of which 53,851 were reported as successful. The numbers in 1863 were, vaccinated, 79,295; successful operations, 57,378.

87. The report of the acting Principal Civil Medical Officer gives full information respecting the various diseases which prevailed in Ceylon, and the state of the medical department, and of the several hospitals maintained by Government, and contains valuable suggestions for improving the sanitary condition of the Island

Education.

88. The returns of schools for the year 1864 show that there were 110 Government or public schools, in which there were 5,232 pupils, being less by 516 than the number of pupils in the Government schools in 1863.

89. The expenditure by Government on account of education amounted to 15,331*l.* 12*s.* 3¾*d.* in 1864, showing an increase of 811*l.* 8*s.* 8¾*d.* as compared with the expenditure of 1863, which amounted to 14,520*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* The school fees amounted to 2,069*l.* 12*s.* 11½*d.*, showing a decrease of 171*l.* 11*s.* 8½*d.* on the receipts from the same source in 1863.

90. The returns from the different missionary bodies show that there has been a decrease both in the number of schools supported by them, and in the number of pupils attending those schools in the past year. The following is an abstract of these schools:—

—	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel -	161	4,528
Church Missionary Society - -	109	3,465
Wesleyan Society - - - -	100	3,501
Baptist Society - - - -	21	563
American Society - - - -	47	1,544
Roman Catholic Society - - -	73	3,833
Total - -	511	17,434

91. The numbers in 1863 were, schools, 516; pupils, 19,680.

92. The Wesleyan and the Roman Catholic missions received in support of their schools in the Northern Province grants in aid from the Government, the former to the amount of 341*l.* 15*s.*, and the latter 200*l.*

93. The number of private schools in 1864 was 268, whilst the number in 1863 was 281; but the attendance in these schools was larger last year, viz., 5,677, whilst the number in 1863 was 5,380.

CEYLON.

94. I enclose a copy of the 21st report of the Central School Commission for the period from the 1st July 1863 to the 30th June 1864, which gives a full account of the Government schools up to the middle of last year.

95. Prefixed to the Blue Book returns will be found a table giving a statistical view of the progress of this Colony for the years 1821 to 1864 inclusive, and an abstract of the principal statistical results for the years 1863 and 1864, prepared in the form suggested by the International Statistical Congress at the meeting held in London in 1860.

96. I enclose also reports from the several Government Agents on the state of their respective provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON.

Encl. 1 in No. 23.

Enclosure 1 in No. 23.

DECENNIAL RETURN of the EXPORTS of COFFEE, CINNAMON, COCOA-NUT OIL, and COIR, the Produce of the Colony.

YEAR.	COFFEE.			CINNAMON.			COCOA-NUT OIL.			COIR.			Total Amount of Customs Revenue from the foregoing Exports.
	Quantity.	Value.	Amount of Export duty received.	Quantity.	Value.	Amount of Export duty received.	Quantity.	Value.	Amount of Export duty received.	Quantity.	Value.	Amount of Export duty received.	
	cwts.	£	£	lbs.	£	£	galls.	£	£	cwts.	£	£	£
1855 - -	506,540	1,025,282	—	730,600	36,089	—	900,742	108,913	—	45,975	27,754	—	—
1856 - -	440,819	981,723	—	877,547	45,370	—	1,046,326	101,591	—	29,564	19,028	—	—
1857 - -	602,266	1,496,645	—	887,959	52,574	—	1,679,258	212,184	—	42,256	29,617	—	—
1858 - -	544,507	1,337,122	27,226	750,744	37,537	751	777,163	77,716	1,949	40,420	32,419	511	30,437
1859 - -	589,779	1,467,497	29,490	879,361	43,972	880	1,118,638	111,864	2,985	38,086	25,945	447	33,802
1860 - -	620,132	1,574,033	31,007	675,156	33,758	675	1,549,089	154,909	3,890	36,616	24,864	458	36,030
1861 - -	648,026	1,656,733	32,402	845,218	42,261	845	1,040,428	104,043	2,613	43,168	31,883	540	36,400
1862 - -	605,178	1,445,284	30,259	875,475	43,774	876	1,429,531	142,953	3,591	46,595	37,648	583	35,309
1863 - -	828,587	2,126,222	41,429	734,038	36,702	734	1,878,585	187,858	4,718	51,785	39,103	647	47,528
1864 - -	671,164	1,744,793	33,559	776,675	38,833	775	2,249,402	224,948	5,649	36,313	27,386	454	40,437
Total -	6,056,998	14,855,334	225,372	8,032,773	410,870	5,536	13,669,161	1,426,979	25,395	410,778	295,647	3,640	259,943

Customs, Colombo, April 25, 1865. (Signed) G. VANE, Principal Collector.

Encl. 2 in No. 23.

Enclosure 2 in No. 23.

TOTAL VALE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS (including Specie and Bullion) from and to each Country in each of the Years 1862, 1863, and 1864.

	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
	1862.	1863.	1864.	1862.	1863.	1864.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom -	836,319 1 11	1,011,994 17 7	1,651,587 1 1	1,703,574 1 1	2,407,578 8 7	2,015,326 3 3
British possessions in India.	2,518,543 2 11	3,505,139 19 9	2,821,092 14 1	612,550 6 8	994,879 9 10	957,545 10 1
Mauritius - -	37,801 3 1	18,090 11 9	31,343 3 6	11,565 15 9	26,956 10 1	923 17 0
Aden - -	- -	10 12 6	30 0 0	15 3 5	19 18 8	—
Hong Kong - -	4,134 14 11	10,677 9 7	8,710 19 4	67 18 0	2,529 18 9	194 7 0
Australia - -	570,495 8 8	552,785 11 2	629,843 13 5	34,744 4 2	19,176 7 7	52,060 9 6
Cape of Good Hope -	432 17 11	1,892 19 0	348 9 0	—	—	—
Gibraltar - -	—	—	—	19,844 17 8	15,666 3 0	5,124 18 1
New Zealand -	—	—	—	—	60 0 0	—
Sierra Leone -	—	—	—	656 13 8	—	—
France -	835 7 0	—	87 0 0	54,572 15 11	30,748 6 8	8,161 10 5
Suez - -	74,841 3 8	168,668 11 4	135,693 15 5	1,373 17 6	10,575 16 8	9,291 15 10
French possessions in India.	135,951 4 6	122,048 15 3	156,550 17 8	29,427 4 2	33,553 15 7	23,076 9 11
Maldive Islands -	35,603 16 11	32,978 5 8	41,880 12 0	9,384 11 0	7,417 14 8	6,740 13 10
China - -	—	—	—	—	3 14 0	—
United States of America.	16,566 12 3	9,518 17 0	8,273 0 0	16,342 16 2	22,345 5 3	28,481 8 7
Dutch possessions in India.	—	—	—	—	1,924 3 6	5,341 12 0
Buenos Ayres -	—	—	2,813 0 0	—	—	—
Judda - -	11,614 17 11	—	—	—	—	—
Portuguese possessions in India.	—	—	—	—	2 0 6	—
Pernambuco -	—	—	—	—	13,796 13 1	—
Macao - -	—	—	593 0 0	—	—	—
Bolivia - -	—	—	4,800 0 0	—	—	—
Peru - -	—	—	33,315 10 0	—	—	—
Madeira - -	—	—	1 7 10	—	—	—
	4,243,139 11 8	5,433,806 10 7	5,526,964 3 4	2,494,120 5 2	3,587,234 6 5	3,112,268 15 6

Customs, Colombo, April 25, 1865. (Signed) G. VANE, Principal Collector.

Enclosure 3 in No. 23.

Encl. 3 in No. 23.

NUMBER and TONNAGE of VESSELS entered and cleared from and to each COUNTRY in each of the Years 1862, 1863, and 1864.

	ENTERED.						CLEARED.					
	1862.		1863.		1864.		1862.		1863.		1864.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
United Kingdom -	75	42,267	116	62,742	105	50,500	106	50,644	139	62,930	128	59,339
British possessions in India.	2,306	281,424	2,804	330,233	2,636	322,923	2,323	294,291	2,850	347,134	2,852	372,356
Cape of Good Hope -	17	6,619	18	6,100	5	1,658	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mauritius - -	20	7,598	12	2,765	8	3,027	5	396	13	2,867	1	82
Hong Kong - -	26	25,667	35	36,253	38	40,583	29	28,902	38	39,264	36	38,093
Aden - - -	2	861	7	2,868	7	4,022	—	—	—	—	—	—
Australia - -	36	21,432	42	38,032	43	24,411	17	9,581	19	10,871	25	10,928
New Zealand - -	3	1,598	6	4,733	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Montevideo - -	—	—	1	275	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buenos Ayres - -	—	—	—	—	1	502	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suez - - -	26	31,055	35	42,873	37	45,548	26	30,535	37	44,749	37	46,660
France - - -	2	1,186	1	298	—	—	2	1,147	4	1,462	1	514
Mozambique - -	—	—	1	430	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belgium - - -	—	—	1	520	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
French possessions in India.	212	15,233	169	13,728	192	16,901	233	16,430	166	14,304	129	10,415
Arabia - - -	4	2,551	—	—	—	—	3	1,817	2	769	2	481
Maldive Islands - -	54	6,699	44	4,600	52	5,755	42	4,789	39	4,534	42	4,524
America, United States -	4	2,846	1	953	5	3,394	3	2,318	2	1,021	2	721
Dutch possessions in India	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,005	5	2,949
Holland - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portuguese possessions in China.	—	—	—	—	1	260	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bourbon - -	—	—	—	—	1	506	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madeira - - -	—	—	—	—	1	1,027	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bolivia - - -	—	—	—	—	1	341	—	—	—	—	—	—
Johana in Africa -	—	—	—	—	1	344	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peru - - -	—	—	—	—	3	1,631	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total -	2,788	447,481	3,293	537,404	3,137	523,333	2,791	441,511	3,310	530,910	3,260	547,062

Enclosure 4 in No. 23.

Encl. 4 in No. 23.

SIR, Surveyor General's Office, Colombo, March 23, 1865.

IN forwarding my annual progress report of the Survey Department for 1864 I first beg to be excused for the unusual delay that has occured in its preparation. To my visit to the Central Province as one of a committee appointed to report on certain roads it is chiefly to be attributed; and also the nature of the report being necessarily statistical, I was prevented from framing it without access to office records in Colombo. But I now have the honour to inform you that the work in 1864 surpasses every other year's returns in every respect; a greater number of acres have been disposed of, a larger amount received, and more title plans issued for deeds than in any year since 1844, when the price per acre was raised to 1*l.*; in a word, 3,542 lots, covering 34,122 acres, have produced the sum of 76,567*l.*, of which 6 381*l.* are due to fees.

The same course adopted last year, of taking the details into consideration by Provinces, I intend to follow on the present occasion.

1. *Western Province.* For the first time have the receipts of this Province exceeded those of the Central Province, viz. 34,794*l.* from the former against 33,334*l.* from the latter. This in a great measure arises from the circumstance of the valley of Deek Oya having been declared within its limits, and 5,703 acres of forest therein situated bringing 6,350*l.* An imaginary line running from Adam's Peak to the junction of the Deek Oya with the Bagawanthalawe Oya, is now ruled to represent the boundary of the two Provinces, which is so far unfortunate as it throws all the Court business of the new estates into Ratnapoora, to which town no road at present exists.

A second reason is to be found in the start that the southern portion of Saffragam has lately taken in coffee cultivation in the neighbourhood of Gongalla; 3,105 acres of forest were sold, but little more than the upset price was obtained, probably owing to its being a new and untried locality.

In the Hina Corle a very large quantity of land has been sold to natives in moderately sized lots, chiefly intended, I hear, for cocoa-nuts. The accessibility to the land by means of the railway has made this a favourable locality for investment.

Caltura district and its neighbouring localities, Pasdoon and Rygam Korles, produced no less than 3,969*l.* last year for 1,934 acres, about one-half of which only were *bonâ fide* sales, the rest being due to compromises with the natives on account of lengthened occupation as prescribed by Ordinance. This is a field where much money will be reaped by Government for some years to come, the lands being chiefly paddy fields and gardens held under licence from the Government. A few more years and all these lands would have passed from the possession of Government, lapsing to the cultivators by the right of tenure. Much opposition is in consequence made to their survey and sale, but great credit is due to the Government Agent for his judicious management in coming to fair terms with the natives. The lands too are much enhanced in value from their abounding in plumbago, which is year by year becoming an article of greater export.

CEYLON.

The Crown land sold for 2*l.* 3*s.* per acres 922 acre ; were parted with at a valuation to occupiers for 2,383*l.*, and 1,103 acres were given up by Government, owing to the prescribed term of 30 years having been exceeded by the too successful squatters.

2. *Central Province.* Last year there were but two extensive tracts of forest sold for coffee, one at Haywa Ellia, Badulla, where 4,299 acres were sold for 7,579*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 15*s.* per acre, and the other at the Heen Ganga, better known as the Nitre Cave lands, Meddemahanewere, where 2,018 acres brought the upset price.

At Matelle the sales as usual were very prosperous ; not that it is believed the soil is in any way superior, and indeed throughout the district is a lack of water, but it is said to be the favourite country and climate* of the Tamil coolie.

A few lots were sold at Happootelle, 1,025 acres for 1,036*l.*, and in Dolosbage, Oedepalate, Hewahette, Doombera, and land was in demand chiefly for additions to old estates, and for native coffee gardens.

The highest sale of the year was at Matelle, where the land called Maccaloose of 506 acres was disposed of for 4,800*l.*, or at the rate of 9 guineas per acre, the largest bid, considering the area, ever known at a Government auction.

Very little was done in the Central Province towards the settlement of land occupied by squatters. A difficulty in this respect always exists in this province which does not apply to the maritime districts. In the latter the Dutch established a thombo register of lands, which is of great service in the determination of claims; but in the Central Province, the Kandyans have in general no sort of documentary title to produce. Seven small claims or enroachments, however, amounting to 105 acres, were disposed of to a Matelle planter for 540*l.*

3. *In the Southern Province* a large falling off is perceptible in 1864 contrasted with 1863, to the extent of more than 50 per cent., still 926 acres were sold for 3,006*l.*, or about 3*l.* 5*s.* an acre, this being the province where the highest rate of land sales is always maintained, though the aggregate revenue from them is but small. The fields and gardens in Matura and Hambantotte districts are sure to meet with much competition when exposed for sale, the former country having a rich and populous community, and the latter receiving its value from the irrigation works of Ooroobokke and Kirime. In 1864 sixty-three lots containing 95 acres were sold for 1,740*l.*, or 18*l.* the acre, in the Girreway Pattoo of the Hambantotte district.

A few small additions were made to the coffee estates in the Morowe Korle, planted in 1863, and said to be very flourishing. A large survey force was employed there last year, but the fruit of their labours was not reaped till the beginning of 1865.

4. *The Eastern Province,* or rather Batticaloa, shows a different style of return to all the others. But though neither for coffee nor cocoa-nut plantations, in its way it is of a very satisfactory character. The lots there are minute in size and are intended for native gardens, and in consequence there are few places where native prosperity of late years has been more apparent. 888 lots, containing 1,007 acres, were sold for 1,460*l.*, and 225 lots, with only 170 acres, being claims and encroachments, were settled for 418*l.*

The irrigation works of Errecamam and Ambare are still productive of revenue through the sale of lands, 52 lots with 434 acres bringing 521*l.* in 1864. Several others were purchased, but the sales were cancelled owing to the money not being forthcoming at the appointed dates.

5. *The North-western Province* shows 986 acres of Crown land, producing 1,496*l.*, and 198 acres of claims and encroachments, 366*l.* The neighbourhood of Chilaw is reported excellent for cocoa-nuts, and so soon as I can spare one or two of my staff from other districts, I trust to make the land sale return of this province exhibit a higher figure.

6. *In the Northern Province,* by the desire of the late Sir Charles MacCarthy, a surveyor has been stationed there for some years past. It was never expected that his employment there would produce any revenue, as in the well-cultivated peninsula of Jaffna the gardens are almost wholly the properties of natives, and the rest of this large province is little but a wilderness. The chief reason expressed by the Government Agent for the presence of a surveyor was the "definition of the ponds and channels of drainage," and to mark out what Crown land may yet remain there, to prevent future encroachments. At his request also the town of Mulletwoe was surveyed and many lots have been offered for sale, but as yet without result.

It may not be without interest to note that 24 building lots covering two acres were sold at Anoradjapoora, or rather made over to the natives of that ancient metropolis for 128*l.*

Having now finished my remarks on the land sales of the provinces, I now proceed to detail the other field operations of the Survey department. These are,

Temple land surveys.
Railway surveys.
Road tracings.
Old grants.

In accordance with instructions of Government to lose no time in executing *the Temple Land Surveys,* I placed six of my staff last year to this special work, and the result of their labours was the survey of 89 temples, comprising 33,538 acres. As I have often represented, this species of survey is most trying to the constitutions of the men employed, and very expensive to the Government. The lands lie in remote parts, far from civilization at times, or even a road, and therefore a great loss occurs in the fixation of the lots by means of trigonometrical stations or lengthened traverses. What with the difficulty of the survey, what with the enormous area yet to be mapped, it is out of the question to say when this work will be accomplished ; 45,690 acres have already been surveyed, and 51,204 remain untouched that is according to the Commissioners' report, but as their areas are far from correct and always too small, the figure, if the same proportion of error hitherto existing be maintained, will be near 100,000.

Railway Surveys.—Under this head I include all those surveys of private properties through which the line runs. According to the Ordinance for taking private lands for public purposes, it rests with

* 2,230 acres produced 10,182*l.*, or 4*l.* 11*s.* per acre.

this office to supply the survey and certificates to the effect of the necessity of taking such lands. Last year the properties extending from Peradenia to Kandy were surveyed, and such portions as were required in due course handed over to the railway authorities. Besides which several small additions, partly for stations, were made throughout the line at the request of the consulting engineer.

Road Tracings.—As the Commissioner of Roads reported a deficiency of his staff for tracing all the roads urgently called for, this department undertook the tracing of the new road from the Kandy road to the railway station at Ambepusse, as well as the improvement of the trace leading from Morowe Korle to Matura.

Old Grants.—A question was asked in the Legislative Council with reference to these old grants, implying that small progress had been made in the surveys. These lands were granted in 1844 to natives with a promise of title plans and deeds on deposit of the value of the land (5*s.* per acre) and the survey fees, &c.; 8,000*l.* was the result of this call. Plans of 1,543 lots, comprising 10,880 acres, have been issued from this office up to date from 1859. How much more remains to be done I cannot well ascertain, for though the Government Agent Western Province gives me 16,000 acres as the total, yet that is likely to be only an approximate amount. The work is being executed concurrently with other work, it being thought from the dispersion of the lots throughout the province that it was not worth while to make it a special and therefore expensive transaction, while by combining it with "applications" and "encroachments" the survey could be carried out without injury to the revenue. The delay in the final settlement it is believed is not to be attributed to the Survey department, nor to the cutcherry, but is rather due to the natives themselves. Instead of being in possession of land according to the old grant, it is generally found on survey that they claim on it half as much again. The excess the Government Agent is willing to give them at a valuation, at an easy rate; but it is a work of time for the natives to come to any arrangement.

Leaving now the field for the office, I have to report that in 1864 title deed plans were issued in triplicate, amounting in number to 2,670, covering 42,262 acres, being the largest number and the greatest area ever granted by the Government in any year since 1844. The contract system under which these are drawn works admirably, and indeed without it I could not possibly have supplied the required 8,010 plans. One plan of each set having been drawn and examined in the office, a young draftsman takes it home, and returns it with the duplicate and triplicate next morning, for 9*d.* a copy.

The record plans on the 16-chain scale and adapted to the meridian of Pedrotallagalla have been greatly advanced last year. These are essential for the proper insertion of all the new works, the boundaries of which could not be guaranteed as the exact limits without such accurate information as the record plans can alone afford.

The entire expenditure of the department was 17,458*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, divided as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Fixed salaries	6,720	5	2
Provisional do	7,364	19	9
Contingencies	449	19	11¼
Transport	817	0	6
Miscellaneous (cooly money)	3,181	7	7½
	£18,533	13	0
Deduct for extra month's pay charged this year	1,075	4	10
	£17,458	8	2

The number of assistant surveyors in the field was 24, and in the office two.

As the work of survey depends on the personal labour of the surveyor alone, and as my assistants are infinitely more exposed to the climate than any class of men in the Island, being without the luxury of European comforts, and for the most part living in native huts, no annual report is complete without a reference to their state of health. Whether it was owing to an unhealthy season, or to the long period they have been at the same monotonous and solitary labour with gradually enfeebled powers to withstand the sun, I have to bring to the notice of Government that my staff of surveyors suffered severely in 1864. Two of them died, one at Caltura, and the other at Colombo, one went to Europe for his health, and many others were sick for long periods, viz.:

Mr. Reynolds	95 days		Jungle fever.
„ Symonds	72 „		Dysentery; very near his death on two occasions.
„ Stoddart	50 „		Sore feet and liver.
„ Still	32 „		Fever.
„ Mantell	43 „		Ophthalmia.
„ Robertson	38 „		Fever and liver.
„ Leitch	21 „		Fever.
„ Daniels	31 „		do.
„ Stephens	23 „		do.

On the 24th September 1864 I addressed a letter to the Government on the subject of the health of the officers of this department, and expressed the fear that unless those in the provisional list were allowed leave to Europe on half pay in the proportion of one year out of seven, in a short time I should have no European assistant left. The climate and exposure will either have killed them or forced them to resign. No answer has been received to my letter, but I beg to reiterate respectfully but strongly the opinion I then expressed, and trust that the Secretary of State, to whom the matter was referred, may be again appealed to in behalf of men whose hard work and good service have so often been the theme of praise in this Colony, and who have so largely contributed to the development of its resources.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary. (Signed) CHARLES SIM.

CEYLON.

Enclosure 5 in No. 23.

Encl. 5 in No. 23.

SIR, Principal Civil Medical Officer's Office, Colombo, June 26, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to submit my report on the state of the public health and of the Civil Medical department for the year 1864.

It is unnecessary for me to recapitulate what has already been submitted by my predecessor and myself within the last two years; but I beg to draw the attention of Government to certain wants or sanitary defects which I consider require early consideration on the part of Government.

Colombo, considering its population, some of its crowded streets, ill-ventilated houses, and total disregard to cleanliness on the part of nearly two-thirds of its native population, is, I believe, the healthiest town in the Island, as Ceylon may be considered one of the healthiest countries among the islands in the Indian Ocean, or in the south of India. The Pettah which originally was the locality of the residents of the wealthy Dutch burghers, has now been, as commerce increased, converted into a place of extensive business, and is the centre of native commerce and enterprise; and it is here that most of the natives barter, buy, and sell their wares. This locality, since the houses were converted into stores, has had its accommodation as dwelling-houses decreased, and consequently the nuisance from this cause has been unbearable, and has in a great measure tended to lessen the sanitary state of the town. The surface drains in cross streets have been broken and damaged by the traffic, and no permanent measures have been taken to remedy these defects. Some of the houses have wares stored in a part of the building and the outhouses used as a dwelling place for a larger number than they can well accommodate with comfort to the inmates themselves and without injury to the public health. Whilst this portion of the town is becoming the market of Colombo, and every available dwelling-house is monthly being converted into a store or shop, it is indispensably necessary that better ventilation and drainage should be introduced into its streets and houses. The drains and openings which were in use for a limited population cannot be sufficient for more than three times that number. This matter I have already brought to the notice of Government in my letter of the 27th August, No. 312.

The practice of felling old trees which offered shelter in crowded localities, with a view of widening the street, is much to be regretted. In a warm climate where the sun is powerful the air is rendered purer by having vegetation of this kind, and what is unwholesome to man is readily taken up by the vegetable kingdom in exchange for that which keeps the life blood pure. This system is carefully followed in all continental towns in Europe where the weather in summer is hot; and it would be desirable to have trees of hard wood which afford shade, planted on the side of streets at convenient distances where they are not likely to interfere with the traffic.

As it would be a matter of time and no little difficulty to have the Pettah thoroughly ventilated and drained, I beg to suggest that where land is sold as building lots, proper drains be constructed to drain the refuse of houses, and that sufficient room be reserved in the building lots as means of ventilation. The mere intersection of roads among building lots is insufficient where houses are built at close proximity to each other, particularly in a warm climate where more space for air is wanted to keep the temperature as low as possible by means of evaporation and fresh currents of air.

It is a matter of surprise that at every corner of a street, or in the most public thoroughfares, men and children are seen making use of the roadside as places for the committing of nuisances. This, for a considerable time, has been a matter which the public has patiently endured, particularly the European community; but at present there is no excuse for allowing things to continue in this state, as the erection of a few urinals in crowded localities and public privies or accommodation where the dry system of earth sewage may be introduced, would soon obviate this difficulty and greatly tend to the comfort and health of the population. The cost of this will be a trifling matter compared to the benefit the public will derive by these conveniences.

The proposal for supplying the town with water would work much better if undertaken by Government, and the expenses would then be far below the estimate of the proposed company. The water from the Kalany river may be brought to the lake by earthenware pipes, and the lake kept full during the dry months. It would be necessary, in order to have the water in the lake fresh, that no drain be allowed to empty itself into it, and that the privies overhanging it be removed. Water thus supplied to the lake may be used for flushing drains and other purposes, and nearly all the drains in the Pettah Sea Street, and as far as Marendahn, may be flushed by having an iron tank at the Wolfendahl Hill and another on St. Sebastian Hill or Hulfsdorp, kept full by pumping water from the lake. These proposals will entail expense, but as they are for the general good and welfare of the public, there may be extra taxation for it on the understanding that the money realized for this purpose be expended for it alone. As this supply of water would enable the streets being watered in dry weather, it will be a great comfort to the families of the poor working classes, who are prevented from having any kind of exercise owing to the dust which rises in clouds and settles on their person and dress. The want of healthy exercise among this class, the impoverished diet, and the impure air they breathe in their ill-ventilated and imperfectly dried houses, are fruitful sources of the maladies with which they are affected, viz., incurable skin diseases, low malignant fevers, scrofula, and consumption.

Public Health.

January. The state of the public health during the year was very unsatisfactory. In January the weather was hot and dry, and there was a scarcity of water in the wells, so that the lake in the town of Colombo was daily getting low, and there was every sign of a sickly season after the rains. The great varieties of temperature felt in the hilly districts, and the chilly breeze in the morning and the hot sun during the day, produced fever of an intermittent and remittent type chiefly in the Central and Northern provinces of the Island. Small pox existed at Point de Galle, Kurnegalle Badulla, and in the Jaffna Small Pox hospital there were as many as 26 cases under treatment.

February. The weather in February continued hot throughout, and the scarcity of water was much felt, so that water had to be pumped into the lake to keep it from getting dry and exposing its muddy banks to the influence of the sun. This, I am happy to say, had the desired effect; for it kept the water to a certain level, and the exposed banks which had soon got dry were in a few days covered with luxuriant

grass affording pasture for cattle. Cholera appeared on the road from Kandy to the north of the Island, called the North road, the highway to emigrant labourers to coffee estates; and in Kandy small pox continued to increase, and at the different stations and in Jaffna there were 42 fresh admissions. CEYLON.

The public health continued much in the same state during March, only that cholera gradually extended to other stations in the Island, as Kandy, Jaffna, and other towns which have communication with emigrant labourers, and are not far from the great highway from India to Ceylon. Small pox continued to spread in Jaffna. A prisoner in the Hulfsdorp gaol in Colombo was affected with the disease, and had to be removed to the Small Pox hospital. March.

Refreshing showers of rain fell during this month, but with it fever made its appearance in different parts of the Island, chiefly in the low country along the course of the river and lake. Diarrhœa also appeared in crowded localities, particularly in large establishments, and cholera and smallpox kept their hold at stations where they appeared. April.

The heavy rains during this month had the effect of lowering the temperature, and the epidemics of small pox and cholera subsided to some extent, but fevers were on the increase, and some assumed a typhoid character in Colombo. May.

In June the unhealthiness of the town of Colombo increased; fever, small pox, and cholera appeared, and the latter disease affected the prisoners in the Hulfsdorp gaol. Out of 34 affected there were five deaths, and the epidemic which broke out on the 2nd lasted till the 17th. In other towns and districts fever was very prevalent, but small pox and cholera continued to prevail in Jaffna and Kandy particularly. June.

The month of July continued unhealthy, and in addition to fever, small pox, and cholera, diarrhœa and dysentery appeared, fever becoming very prevalent about the low country. July.

The health of the public continued very unsatisfactory during this month. Fever, which was very prevalent among the pioneers and other Government labourers stationed on the Kandy road, continued to extend, and cholera appeared in the town of Colombo in an epidemic form in Sea Street, introduced by pilgrims returning from St. Ann's Church. Except the towns of Hambantotte and Trincomalie, every other station was visited with cholera, and at Jaffna small pox was again on the increase. August.

Small pox was on the decline during this month at the several stations, and cholera and fevers were not so prevalent; a few cases which were reported as cholera in the Galle district were diseases caused by eating an unwholesome kind of fish. September.

Although small pox and cholera had not subsided, yet the number of cases were few in the Island during this month; fevers were on the decline. October.

Colombo was not free from cholera during these months, though some of the other large towns were. It reappeared in the Colombo Hulfsdorp gaol about the latter part of December and continued to the middle of the month. There were 12 cases, and of these three died; small pox disappeared, there being no cases reported. An epidemic of dysentery occurred in the Willicadde gaol, but fortunately there were few deaths, the disease being treated promptly, and measures taken to remove the causes which led to it. It was attributed to the sudden change of temperature, and to prisoners being taken out of hot cells or rooms to the cold morning air. November and December.

From the preceding observations on diseases which appeared during each month in the year it will appear that the Island had not been in such an unhealthy state for some years, as the drought was an unprecedented one. The fevers which broke out soon after the fall of rain afforded proofs of the effects of heat and moisture on decomposed animal and vegetable matter.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 6 in No. 23. Encl. 6 in No. 23.

CENTRAL SCHOOL COMMISSION.—REPORT.

The Central School Commission have the honour to submit to the Legislative Council their report for the past year (July 1, 1863–June 30, 1864).

2. On the 31st December 1863 there were 109 Government schools in operation, which had on their rolls at that date 5,748 pupils, with an average attendance during the year of 4,474. This shows an increase of four schools and of 83 pupils as compared with the year 1862. Statistics of education.

3. The per-centage of scholars who, at the close of the year 1863, had attended the same Government school for periods varying from less than one year to more than five years, is as follows:— Period of attendance.

Less than one year.	One year and less than two years.	Two years and less than three years.	Three years and less than four years.	Four years and less than five years.	Five years and upwards.
42·92	21·92	12·84	9·39	7·18	6·15

4. The following table shows the per-centage of children of the different ages from "under five" to "over fifteen" in the different classes of schools:— Age of pupils.

CEYLON.

Schools.	Under five.	Between five and six.	Between six and seven.	Between seven and eight.	Between eight and nine.	Between nine and ten.	Between ten and eleven.	Between eleven and twelve.	Between twelve and thirteen.	Between thirteen and fourteen.	Between fourteen and fifteen.	Over fifteen.
Colombo Academy -	—	—	·32	·96	1·25	2·25	7·39	8·03	14·47	13·18	16·08	36·01
Superior schools -	—	—	·42	2·11	4·66	4·66	6·35	11·86	15·67	12·28	11·86	30·08
English schools -	·13	1·56	2·12	4·96	6·94	10·63	11·91	10·07	14·89	10·49	9·64	16·59
Mixed schools - -	·39	2·75	3·01	4·64	6·54	7·53	8·31	10·41	12·31	9·82	8·90	25·27
Vernacular schools -	·10	2·06	5·38	10·26	13·98	14·18	15·39	12·27	9·99	7·24	3·26	5·93
Superior girls' schools -	2·16	7·83	8·13	7·31	10·56	10·29	11·92	13·55	14·36	8·94	2·98	1·89
Mixed girls' schools -	3·37	7·67	8·58	14·41	13·80	18·71	11·65	10·43	5·82	2·45	1·53	1·53
Vernacular girls' schools	2·79	11·53	10·49	15·38	14·65	20·98	11·89	8·04	1·74	1·05	1·05	·35
Total - -	·64	3·15	4·48	7·58	9·88	11·27	11·69	11·03	11·27	8·38	6·36	14·21

5. The expenditure on account of education during the year 1863 amounted to 14,520*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, showing an increase of 420*l.* 16*s.* 0¼*d.* as compared with 1862, when the expenditure was 14,099*l.* 7*s.* 6¾*d.* This increase may be accounted for by the new schools opened during the year, and by the expenses attendant on a more frequent inspection of the more distant schools.

Expenditure, 1859–1863.

6. The following table will show the amount voted and the amount expended on account of education during each of the last five years.

Years.	Voted.			Expended.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1859 - - -	14,062	4	8	12,723	9	11½
1860 - - -	14,700	18	5	13,365	2	4¼
1861 - - -	16,475	6	8	14,306	12	2½
1862 - - -	16,674	6	3	14,099	7	6¾
1863 - - -	15,306	8	0	14,520	3	7

Estimate for 1865.

7. The sum of 16,298*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* was voted for the current year, and the educational estimate for 1865 amounts to 17,107*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*

School fees.

8. The amount realized by school fees 1863 was 2,241*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*, to which must be added 82*l.* 9*s.* 6¾*d.*, being receipts on account of stationery, showing an increase in the receipts from schools in 1863, as compared with 1862, of 28*l.* 16*s.* 2¼*d.*, and as compared with 1861 of 173*l.* 18*s.* 7¾*d.*

Grants in aid.

9. The amount of grants made to private and other schools during the year 1863 is 754*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, exclusive of grants for books, maps, and furniture.

New schools.

10. Since the date of the last report a vernacular school for boys has been opened at Pattiwelle in the Western Province, and the girls' school at Welligampitiya has been re-opened.

Prizes.

11. The report of the examiners for the mathematical prize will be found in the Appendix; the mathematical prize for this year has been gained by Mr. Annamalay of Jaffna.

12. The Turnour prize for the current year was gained by Mr. W. N. Keith.

Local examination.

13. The examiner's report of the second local examination, held under the Government notification of the 26th November 1861, will be found in the Appendix.

Calcutta University.

14. The result of the last examination at Queen's College and the Colombo Academy, in connexion with the University of Calcutta, was as follows: Mr. C. Brito passed the examination for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and of 13 candidates, prepared at the academy, for the entrance examination, two passed in the first division and eight in the second. The senior Queen's scholarship for the current year was awarded to Mr. F. Beven.

Kandy girls' school.

15. Miss Towell, having been appointed by the Secretary of State to the assistant teachership of the Kandy girls' school, entered upon her duties in June 1864.

Galle girls' school.

16. In consequence of the sudden departure of the head teacher, Mrs. Clarke, from the Colony, the Galle girls' school was closed for a few months; but upon the arrival, in May 1864, of Miss Grey, who had been appointed to the principalship of the Jaffna girls' school, the Commission obtained the consent of the Government to her being detained in charge of the Galle school until relieved by Mrs. Clarke's successor.

Colombo industrial school.

17. A statement of the receipts and expenditure of the industrial school for the half year ending 31st December 1863 will be found in the Appendix, and a full report of its operations by the inspector.

18. The inspector's reports with the accompanying tables give every information as to the state of the central, English, and mixed schools in all the provinces, except a portion to the central, which want of time prevented him from visiting.

19. The thanks of the Commission are due to the sub-committees of Kandy, Galle, and other stations, and to several official and private superintendents for their valuable aid in reference to the schools in which they have respectively interested themselves.

20. Financial and statistical returns, similar to those appended to the last report, will be found in the Appendices.

Enclosure 7 in No. 23. CEYLON.

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION REPORT of the GOVERNMENT AGENT for the WESTERN PROVINCE for the Year 1864. Encl. 7 in No. 23.

The reports from the districts and corles during 1864 showed that notwithstanding the prevalence of drought and the diminution of the supplies of food by a failure of crops in the first quarter of the year, the public health was generally good, except in the towns, where, owing to the usual absence of sanitary precautions and the influence of bad drainage and an extensive exposure, in the case of Colombo of the bed of the lake, the mortality from small-pox, cholera, and fever was considerable. Health.

The rains of the remainder of the year did much to repair the bad effects of the previous drought. The yalla harvest yielded above an average crop, and there was a perceptible improvement in the health of the towns.

Disease among cattle existed only partially in any of the districts.

The population returns founded on the lists obtained from householders under the thoroughfares ordinance at the commencement of the present year give the following results, and show a slight increase on the preceding twelve months:— Population.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1863	247,480	184,171	431,651
1864	250,192	207,074	457,266

for the district of Colombo, while the ordinary returns for Three and Four corles and Saffragam make the populations of those districts for 1864, 190,144.

There can be no doubt that the acquisition of money, facilities for which have been afforded by the employment of large numbers of persons on the railway, and on cocoa-nut and coffee plantations, has, by inducing superior habits, and placing new comforts and better food within the reach at least of the inhabitants of the maritime districts, been highly favourable to the growth of the population.

On the left bank of the Maha Oya from Girwella to the sea, where the felling of forests and the opening of cocoa-nut estates are progressing rapidly, the change of the natural features of the country is less remarkable than the substitution of a sound and comparatively active race of men for the fever stricken and helpless creatures who a very few years ago dragged out a miserable existence in that once malarious region.

The deaths from small-pox and cholera were:—

Small-pox - - - - - -	46
Cholera - - - - - -	140

The effect of the failure of the Maha crops on the revenue was a diminution of 5,494*l.* in comparison with 1863 in the collections from grain, but this was more than counterbalanced by augmentations from other sources, by which the revenue was raised to 19,535*l.* above that of the preceding year.

The land sales, while contributing 17,471*l.* of this excess, have had the beneficial effects of stimulating private industry by adding to the security of much property in the country hitherto held without any title. The following statement shows the extent of land disposed of by competitive sale, by purchases at half improved value, by purchases under the minute of 8th August 1844, and by certificates against the Crown:— Land sales, A.

——	No. of lots.	Extent.			Amount realized.		
		A.	R.	P.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Waste lands - - - -	753	14,160	2	35	29,847	4	6
Lands sold at half improved value -	97	217	0	37	426	6	0
Lands disposed of under the minute of 8th August 1844 - - -	154	1,521	6	28	908	6	11½
Lands in respect of which certificates against the Crown were allowed to parties in possession of them -	816	1,129	3	13	—		

It is to be hoped that such unexpected success may induce the Government to greatly enlarge that staff of the surveyor general's department until all the public property in the possession of private persons has been ascertained and satisfactorily disposed of, and an agricultural survey in some districts already considerably advanced should be sufficiently completed to admit of the introduction of a general land-tax, or if this be not found practicable, of such a system of commutation in respect of the tax on grain as shall neither compromise the interests of Government nor afford temptations of a demoralizing tendency to a people too ready to take advantage of every defect even in plans exclusively formed for their benefit. Agricultural survey.

Fully one-third of the lands in the Alloot Coor corle, the undoubted property of the Crown, owing to the absence of a survey, was commuted in 1830 as belonging to private individuals, and recent surveys have proved that in almost every instance the extent of land was undervalued, so as to entail a further public loss by disproportioned assessment.

The revenue from licences yielded 66,693*l.*, derived principally from the licences for the retail and distillation of arrack. Licences.

The experiment of limiting the number of taverns in the district of Caltura, and within the town of Colombo, and selling the right of retail within them separately, instead of, as hitherto, including them in a single farm, beyond the means of more than a few wealthy individuals to purchase, has not dis- Arrack.

CEYLON.

Distillation.

appointed expectation, and I am sanguine that a still further reduction of taverns may be made without any injury to the revenue, and with good moral effect on the community.

The quantity of arrack distilled during the year does not probably fall short of 150,000 gallons, the produce of 400 stills and 130,000 cocoa-nut trees.

The exportation of this article amounted to 56,501 gallons, paying a duty of 171*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, while the rest was consumed in the country.

The licences on carts realized 2,758*l.*, on carriages 199*l.*, and on guns 234*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*; but there is a large evasion of registration both in respect of carts and guns in the rural districts from causes explained in former reports, and by the mercantile community.

The royalty from plumbago declined from 1,272*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* in 1863 to 1,075*l* 12*s.* 9*d.* in 1864, partly in consequence of a decrease in the demand for the mineral, and partly in consequence of the sale of some of the most productive mines. Plumbago yielding lands have been sold from 60*l.* to 200*l.* an acre.

The annexed schedule will explain not only the present revenue of the province but the steady advance made in every branch of it during the past ten years.

The cost of collection at the present moment does not exceed 5 per cent. of the amount collected, and I think there is every encouragement in this circumstance for the hope that a further judicious outlay on establishments would be attended with advantage.

Necessity for paying the inferior headmen.

The protection of the public property in remote districts ought no longer to be committed to unpaid headmen. It is unreasonable to expect they should undergo the trouble and amount of labour and responsibility entailed by many of the duties they are called upon to perform, or support the odium, often taking the shape of persecution, of resisting encroachments on the interests of Government by their countrymen, without remuneration. The Crown forests alone would repay abundantly the expenditure necessary for their conservancy, and almost every minor source of income, for which we are now dependent on the zeal and honesty of native agents, would be rendered more productive.

Principal works.

Road from Negombo to Veyangodde.

The liberal votes of the Legislature for the up-keep of the principal thoroughfares have prevented any complaints with regard to their condition, except in respect of the road from Negombo to Veyangodde, a part of which lying between Pattelegedere (a railway station) and the Kandy road was rendered impassable for a time by the heavy traffic thrown upon it for railway purposes. A special grant has since removed this ground of complaint, and a coating of metal, which the road had not previously received, has rendered it perfectly practicable, and even a better road than it was before.

Dehewelle canal.

The canal between Colombo and Caltura, owing to the slow progress in the construction of the revetment walls at Dehewelle is not always available for navigation. It would be extremely desirable that there should be no further delay in the completion of this work, which has now extended over many years, as both the revenue and private enterprise suffer by it. The toll farm of the portion of the canal near Dehewelle sold only for 225*l.*, and the other tolls on the same canal have depreciated from the same cause.

Canal from Colombo Lake to Dehewelle.

I have alluded in a former report to the possibility of shortening the distance by canal to Caltura at least twelve miles, by extending the canal communication with the Colombo Lake at the back of Colpetty about two miles, so as to form a junction with the canal at Dehewelle. The lake during floods might be scoured of its impurities by this channel, and the circuitous route by the St. Sebastian canal, Grandpass, Ambitelenpahala and Cottah avoided.

I believe there are few engineering difficulties in the way of this improvement, as the land is nearly altogether marshy, and where not marshy is either Government property or of so little value as to be procurable on moderate terms.

Road from Ballapana to Ruanwelle.

I beg leave again to draw the attention of the Government to the necessity of completing the road from Ruanwelle to Ballapana, considering the importance of connecting the Three and Four corles, and the former district with the railway station at Polgahawelle, and the claims of the people to have a communication permanently established, to which they have contributed in tolls for more than 30 years, and in labour under the thoroughfares ordinance for 16 years.

The advanced state of the new road through Saffragam to Ouvah will admit of a part at least of the funds available for public works in the province being diverted to this useful purpose at an early period.

Kuruganga and Karucrul Ella bridges.

The other requirements of the province are a bridge at the Kuruganga on the Ratnapoora road, and another at Yatteantotte, on the road from Colombo to Ambeganwa, which will free two very useful roads from serious obstruction both during floods and at ordinary times. Both rivers have steep banks and are difficult of approach when only fordable, but during rains rise to such an extent and are so rapid as to be dangerous.

Kahawatte bridge.

It is probable that two of the iron lattice bridges in the store of the civil engineer and commissioner of roads, at a cost of 3,000*l.* each in the erection, could be applied effectually to remedy these defects, and that a third would still be available for the Kahawette river on the road from Pelmadulla to Rakwano, the subject of repeated representations from the planters of the Colonna corle, and of reports from myself.

Road to Dickoya valley and thence to Ratnapoora.

The surveyor general is preparing a trace for a carriage road from the Gumegetheyna gap in Bulatgame to the Dickoya valley, which shall be an improvement on the present line, and afford a way of discharge for the increasing produce of the coffee estates in that locality. The district committee of Ratnapoora has in the meantime been authorized by the provincial committee to seek out a passage through the forests and high ground separating the Bagawantalawe plains from Ratnapoora, by which the upper estates which now extend to those plains shall have ready access to their nearest court house and market for supplies.

Minor roads. Cost in 1864.

The minor roads of the province have been kept up and improved at a cost of 5,314*l.* 16*s.* 2¾*d.* These roads, originally made at a comparatively small expense, when once opened are so readily used for the transport by carriage of heavy goods and of goods previously carried on men's shoulders, that the wear and tear would altogether absorb all the means at the command of the district committees to repair, but for the assistance derived from tolls established on the most frequented roads, which leaves at least a portion of the funds raised under the road ordinance available for the further development of the

country. The toll grants received during the past year amounted to 1,461*l.*, and were applied to the purposes of the several roads on which they were levied.

Kospalankisse bridge;

The most important of the minor works constructed in the same period was the Kospalankisse bridge, which cost 602*l.*, and which to some extent replaces a ferry from which a revenue of 16*l.* per annum was derived.

necessity for establishing a toll on it.

The construction of the bridge has depreciated the ferry, which was in existence before there was even a road, but the Government have declined to sanction the establishment of a toll on the bridge, notwithstanding that the latter would not fall on the foot passengers, who are now subject to a charge at the ferry, but be levied exclusively on carriages, which have hitherto from want of facilities never been conveyed across the water.

Irrigation.

The irrigation ordinance is in full operation in all parts of the Colombo district except in the Pasdoom corle, and is the means of securing all that combination of purpose and effort which the abolition of Rajekaria in 1832 helped to dissolve, and without which the cultivation of paddy becomes, if not impossible, at least difficult and unremunerative.

No fresh works were undertaken under the ordinance with the aid of Government during the past year, the destruction of the Horena and Raygame tanks by floods having acted as a discouragement.

Vaccination.

The progress of vaccination since the passing of the Ordinance No. 9, of 1863, making it compulsory, has been highly satisfactory. The numbers vaccinated during the past year as compared with those vaccinated in the year immediately preceding are 16,094, as against 16,221, notwithstanding a large decrease in the number of persons available for vaccination.

Necessity for small-pox hospitals at out stations

The establishment of the principal civil medical officer for carrying out a system of vaccination organized by the board of health is in the best working order, and the only additional precaution against the spread of small-pox necessary is the erection of suitable buildings in the principal out stations in which sporadic cases may be immediately treated, and houseless persons and strangers affected with the disease may find a ready refuge. A temporary hospital erected after the appearance of an epidemic of small-pox scarcely meets the case, and necessitates a constantly recurring outlay, often when it is too late, by Government.

The ordinance for the promotion of the public health, and the ordinance for the prevention of accidents from gunpowder, both important legislative measures, and called for by the circumstances of the country are inoperative from want of the machinery for carrying out their several provisions.

Inspectors of nuisances and scavengers and slaughterhouses have yet to be provided to enable the board of health to enforce the byelaws which have obtained the sanction of Government in respect of the former ordinance, and public magazines in Colombo and at the out stations in respect of the latter.

It appears to me that seeing the difficulty of meeting these and other similar requirements in consequence of the more urgent claims on the revenue for general purposes, the time has arrived when it might be desirable to reconsider the proposal which found favour with Sir George Anderson to call into existence a municipal organization for Colombo competent to deal with all purely local matters.

The duty on carts plying within the town of Colombo and the assessment on houses were originally intended to provide the means of lighting the streets and keeping them in repair. These objects were relinquished after a considerable fund had been raised, and the assessment on houses was exclusively applied to the support of the police force.

These taxes, which could be augmented by the imposition of higher rates, together with others derived from licences on trades, &c., are still available, and would with slight assistance from Government be found sufficient, under the management of a town council, not only for the maintenance of the police, but to the purposes of the two ordinances referred to, and for many projects of usefulness in the interest of the community which are not now entertained because under existing circumstances they are believed to be unattainable.

The state of the lake of Colombo in connexion with the sewerage of the town has been often under the notice of Government, and a perusal of the reports of the several commissions appointed from time to time to suggest the means of improving it will show how much remains to be done to prevent that beautiful piece of water from becoming a source of disease and discomfort, instead of health and enjoyment to the people, owing to the filth of the town and of public and private necessaries built upon it being added to the deposits it naturally receives from the swamps in the neighbourhood.

One of the first duties of a municipality would probably be to put a stop to this growing evil. In the meantime I beg again most respectfully to draw the attention of Government to the possibility, with prison labour, of partially arresting its progess by filling in those shallow parts of the lake adjoining the rifle hospital, the rifle barracks, and the marandahn mosque, and directing the sewerage of the Pettah into the St. John's river.

This work was commenced under the authority of Government about August last and proved a very suitable employment as well as punishment for the prisoners, but was discontinued before it was finished by an order that the prisoners should be restored to the commissariat timber yard, to which they were lent about two years ago as a temporary expedient for resisting the claims of hired sawyers for increased wages.

The only public buildings of importance undertaken or completed during the year are the girls' school, a handsome and commodious structure in the neighbourhood of the Colombo cutcherry; a new ward for the pauper hospital, rendering that admirably managed institution complete in every respect, and the enclosure of a general cemetery which will probably be ready for use in the course of a few weeks.

Prospective provision was at the same time made for a jail at Cultura, a new wing to the lunatic asylum, much desired for the relief of some of the prisons in which insane persons are now very unsuitably accommodated, and for the entire renewal and enlargement of the Colombo acadamy.

Education.

The following statement will show the amount expended on account of education in 1864 as compared with 1863, and the result in an increased number of pupils in the Government schools and a larger return in fees.

	Average Attendance.	Expenditure.	Amount received in Fees.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1863 - -	3,001	8,438 12 2	1,497 10 10
1864 - -	3,483	9,206 5 7½	1,589 18 10¼

The want of properly trained teachers appears to be the principal drawback to the system which in other respects is successfuly carried out by the central school commission. The abolition of the normal school in 1853 was a mistake which has been only patially remedied by the recent introduction of European masters in some of the principal schools.

The reports of the assistant agents of Kaigalle and Ratnapoora on their respective districts are herewith forwarded, with such marginal remarks from myself as I considered called for.

(Signed) C. P. LAYARD,
Government Agent.

Government Agent's Office, Colombo, May 23, 1865.

REPORT of ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT AGENT of KAIGALLE, 1864.

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

Season and public health.

THE public health during the 1st and 2nd quarters of the year was I regret to say unusually bad, The dry weather which generally prevails at the commencement of the year began early, and was continued until March and April, and this unusual season was marked by increased sickness and great mortality. Fever of a malignant type and dysentery raged in four corles throughout the 2nd quarter, after which the public health began to mend. The mortality returns during that period were alarming; it is estimated that upwards of 2,000 persons fell victims to the prevailing epidemic. I am happy to say that the public health is now completely restored, and the weather having been seasonable hitherto no return of the epidemic is this year anticipated.

Crops.

The grain crops could not fail to be affected by the unseasonable weather and the sickness of the inhabitants. The Maha rents of 1864 showed (as anticipated by my predecessor) a very large falling off, and the whole Paddy rents for the year exhibit a decrease of 2,037*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* on those of 1863. It must be borne in mind, however, that the crops of 1863 were particularly good, and as I notice that good and bad crops in this district alternate yearly, I trust that the coming year will show a reverse statement, and I am encouraged in this hope by the fact that the Chenas and Mahas of 1865 have already borne large crops and have realized good prices. A statement showing the Paddy crops of the district for the last five years is under-written.

Year.	Maha.		Yalla.		Chena.		Total.	
	Extent.	Amount.	Extent.	Amount.	Extent.	Amount.	Extent.	Amount.
	P. s.	£ s. d.	P. s.	£ s. d.	P. s.	£ s. d.	P. s.	£ s. d.
1860	20,409 7	2,382 1 4	1,047 8	132 3 10	4,646 17	810 10 11	26,103 8	3,324 16 1
1861	13,490 10	1,255 16 7	8,477 16	868 3 4	4,048 8	847 18 10	26,016 10	2,971 18 9
1862	23,321 17	2,518 17 9	2,161 15	290 13 5	3,335 21	532 7 4	28,819 5	3,341 18 6
1863	21,877 16	3,279 4 8	7,708 4	1,191 1 1	3,237 18	980 10 7	32,823 14	5,450 16 4
1864	19,366 13	2,642 5 1	2,804 13	525 9 6	1,103 1	246 1 2	23,274 3	3,413 15 9
1865	21,588 4	3,470 15 0	—	—	2,701 14	850 10 0	24,289 18	4,321 5 0*

The coffee crops not being subject to the same influences as grain crops have not shared in their failure, but have been exceedingly abundant. The report of last year much understated the crop of the coffee district. On information from the best sources I find that whilst the crop actually sent down the Ootooankande road, (which road is the outlet of the Tumpalata or Dolosbagey district,) was in 1863–64 (*i.e.* crop of 1863) about 14,000 cwts.; the crop of 1864 will reach at least 20,000 cwts., and the crop of 1865 is estimated at 25,000 cwts. This increase is owing doubtless as well to a larger amount of land having been brought under cultivation as to fullness of crops, but both these depend to some measure on improved communication and facilities for procuring manures, and I cannot lose the opportunity of stating my conviction that Government as well as estate proprietors would derive benefit by the Aranaike road being continued to the Nartukande and Narangalle estate stores, as proposed by the planters. Much has I am aware already been done for these districts, and if the roads above mentioned, with a road from Mawanelle bridge to the proposed railway station at Muttupulia be undertaken the planters will have ample reason to be satisfied and grateful.

The yield of "native coffee" was as good as that of "plantation," and large crops with high prices have combined to give an impetus to the cultivation of native gardens which promises to be serviceable to the interests of the district.

Population.

The Singhalese population of the distict, as shown by the division officers' returns, would appear to be under 70,000, but this I feel sure is inaccurate, and that 80,000 is a more correct return. I have lately taken steps by which I hope a more complete check will be placed on the division officers and an accurate census obtained for 1865.

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* Already realized.

Revenue.

	1863.	1864.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Arrears of Revenue	96 2 8½	170 11 10	74 9 1½	—
Land Sales	275 0 0	853 10 0	578 10 0	—
Land Revenue	4,677 6 11	3,984 14 3½	—	692 12 7½
Rents exclusive of Land	14,391 0 0	11,971 14 8	—	2,419 5 4
Licences	5,083 18 0	5,989 3 0	905 5 0	—
Fines and Forfeitures	176 16 9	148 17 10	—	27 18 11
Sale of Government Property	1 1 2	1 4 7	0 3 5	—
Reimbursements, &c.	11 11 1	5 5 4	—	6 5 9
Interest	49 17 5	82 11 2	32 13 9	—
Special Receipts	17 19 6	6 15 0	—	11 4 6
	24,780 13 6½	23,214 7 8½	1,591 1 3½	3,157 7 1½
Add Amounts collected in Colombo	4,898 6 7	6,233 4 5¾	1,334 17 10¾	—
£	29,679 0 1½	29,447 12 2¼	2,925 19 2¼	3,157 7 1½

The above is a statement of the revenue of the district (a small portion of which is paid into the Colombo cutcherry) collected during the year 1864. It shows a decrease of some 200*l.* on that of 1863, but this is owing principally to the failure of the Paddy crops and to some of the bridge rents being in arrear, the only items of increase worth mentioning being under the heads licences and land sales, and when it is remembered that the revenue collected in 1863 was upwards of 5,000*l.* in excess of previous years, the non-advance in 1864 will not be discouraging, more especially as I confidently estimate that the collections in 1865 will reach 33,000*l.*

Stamps and postage.

These two items do not appear in the revenue receipts, as the amounts although paid in at this cutcherry are remitted by drafts to the commissioner of stamps and postmaster general respectively, appearing in the local cash books here under the head drafts.

The sale of stamps appears to have been slightly over 400*l.*, whilst postage may be entered at 35*l.*

Arrears of revenue.

The exertions made by my predecessor to clear off the old arrears so long outstanding in the district have not been relaxed, and I am glad to say have met with marked success. The widow of the deceased Mahara Rattemahatmeya, who was at his death indebted to Government in the large sum of 128*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, for revenue collected and unaccounted for, has at last listened to reason and settled the account without extreme legal measures being necessary, other recoveries have been made, and permission of the secretary of state has been received to write off the exemptions to headmen amounting to 88*6l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* The arrears of revenue have thus been reduced from 1087*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* to 47*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* and the heading "arrears" will it is trusted ere 1866 cease to disfigure the annual statements of the district.

Local funds.

The amount recovered on account of road ordinance funds in 1864 as per annexed statement amounts to 2,633*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, showing that a larger number of men have satisfied the tax than in any previous years, and this, considering the sickly state of the district at the time of the collections, is satisfactory as indicating that the system is now understood, though I am far from considering that it is yet thoroughly and properly worked by the division officers.

	1863.	1864.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount recovered at 2*s.* 3*d.*	2,041 6 3	2,161 4 9
Do. at 2*s.* 9*d.*	47 3 3	35 9 6
Do. at 4*s.* 6*d.*	6 15 0	16 4 0
Arrears of previous years recovered*	675 15 3	420 11 6
	2,770 19 9	2,633 9 9

Proposed commutation.

It has been a matter of very great regret to me that the proposed commutation ordinance submitted to my predecessor for report has not been brought before the council. The benefits of the commutation system over that of renting greatare so and to me apparently so clear that I cannot understand the policy that would continue the latter. There is but one feeling amongst the natives, and that is in favour of commutation, and it is impossible to be an agent in carrying out the renting system without endorsing the opinion of the Queen's advocate, that "the evils arising from the renting system are "great, that it exposes the natives to much oppression, and that it exercises a demoralizing influence "upon them," and I would add as a consequence "is the cause of a very great proportion of the "litigation of the country."

Railway.

The great work of the railway is progressing; the lands required for its construction have been assessed and taken over, and it is confidently hoped that the line will be opened to the village of Meeregame, on the boundary of the district, by the end of June 1865. I refrain from any lengthened reference to the benefits likely to accrue to this district from this work, as it is one of such magnitude and importance that its results must already have been well considered by every member of the Government.

Principal roads.

The two principal roads of the district, viz., the Kandy main road and the road from Ambegamova to Airsawelle, have been throughout the year in excellent order.

* The decrease under this head is a favourable sign.

CEYLON.

Complaints have however been made of the state of the branch road from Ootooankade to Aranaike, cart hire upon which has been at the rate of 1*s.* 1½*d.* per bushel to Colombo, at which rate transport can generally be obtained from Kotmalie or Pusellave nearly double the distance. The road from Ruawelle to Balapany also has been quite impassable except in the driest seasons; a few pounds spent in bridging the streams and blasting a few of the large stones on this road would render it tolerably passable, and the benefit to the inhabitants of Three corles would be very great. The district of Three corles has been much neglected, and I consider this work should engage the early attention of Government.

A new principal road is in course of construction from Warakapolle to the railway station at Meereegame, and it is hoped that other branch roads to the stations at Polgahawelle and Muttupulia will be commenced in the course of the current year. The intersection of the district by these feeders of traffic for the railway cannot but prove of invaluable service, and if the minor roads radiating to the same centres be brought into and kept in serviceable order the district may congratulate itself on being one of the best roaded in the island.

Minor roads.

The roads from Ruanwelle to Warakapolle, and from Karandepone to Muttupulia, as two of the minor "feeders" above alluded to, have received the attention of the district committee, and the work on each has progressed satisfactorily. The important road from Gollehelle to Polgahawelle, has been left unworked upon, as the road has lately been retraced, and it was felt that to spend the small sums available in the district road committee, if the road was to be made a principal road, was but wasting funds which, even if the road was not thus transferred, could be spent to greater advantage hereafter. The other roads of the district have all received attention in their turn, and as the labour procurable permitted; but the great rise in the price of labour (though of benefit to the district in many respects) has had the effect of keeping back work upon the roads. No workman is willing to give his labour to the committee for 8*d.*, when he can readily obtain 1*s.* on estates or the railway, or if a skilled labourer 1*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* on the latter work.

These high wages are tempting the Singhalese to overcome their indolent habits, and they are now seeking employment both on estates and on the railway in a manner which astonishes those acquainted with their usually lazy nature. It is matter for congratulation that they can be brought to take to honest labour of any description, as it must tend to lessen the opportunity and thus eventually the love of litigation which unhappily so broadly characterizes the entire race.

Public works.

No public works beyond roads have been undertaken in this district during the year, and the only one provided for in the estimates of 1865 is an Episcopal church to which the European and native Protestant community have subscribed a moiety of the cost.

I cannot but regret that the finances did not permit of a vote being taken in the Supply Bill for 1865 for the construction of a set of decent buildings for the transaction of business at this station. The public offices are totally unfitted for their intended purposes; and loss of documents, time, and patience are but a few of the evils consequent on the bad and insufficient accommodation provided. I earnestly hope that in the "Surplus Fund Ordinance," which I hear is in contemplation, that consideration will be given to the very large revenue derived from this district, and that provision will be made to secure suitable offices wherein to conduct the public business and to preserve the records of the several departments.

Kandyan marriage ordinance.

Remark by the Government Agent, Western Province.

See my observations on this subject in my Report for 1863.

I cannot report more satisfactorily of the progress made in the working of this ordinance than did my predecessors, Messrs. Sharpe and Dickson. In 1863, 139 marriages were registered, whilst in 1864 the number was but 74. Against this the headmen report in 1863 no less than 889, and in 1864, 643 unions according to ancient custom.

The evil effect of this state of things, if continued, cannot be exaggerated. In the next generation nine-tenths of the population will be bastards, and the law courts will be overwhelmed with disputes regarding succession to lands, and with the investigation of crimes attendant and consequent on such disputes. There is no disguising the fact that, however desirable and praiseworthy its object may have been, the ordinance was prematurely introduced; that the people were unprepared for a measure requiring a far greater amount of civilization than they had (at least so far as the natives of this district are concerned); the ordinance was introduced *without* their wishes on the question being ascertained.

They are now, female as well as male, directly and almost universally opposed to it, and prefer to regulate their marriage unions according to their own wishes and to ancient custom gifting and bequeathing their lands to their offspring by deed, so as to secure them against the operation of the ordinance) rather than by conforming to the new law to bind themselves to a life-long union, which if sometimes found insupportable in Christian and civilized societies, must far oftener prove intolerable and hateful in semi-barbarous and heathen communities totally unaccustomed to social restraint or to moral influences.

Irrigation ordinance.

Meetings were held this year in Udoone and Kitoolgalle Palates, and the districts of Lower Bulatgame have been brought under the operation of the ordinance.

Without wishing in any way to detract from the merits of an ordinance which to my personal knowledge works so well and admirably in the wilder districts of the island where crops are dependent on irrigation, I must record my opinion that its advantages do not appear to be so great or to be so well appreciated in a district such as Four corles.

But few fields are irrigated, hence regulations regarding water supply are hardly required. Wild beasts do not disturb cultivation, and so slight a fence is required to prevent cattle trespass, that rules for fencing and mutual protection of crops are almost unnecessary, whilst on the more important questions of boundary cutting and encroachment parties generally prefer to seek their remedy at common law to evoking the aid of village councils presided over by native headmen.

General.

This year has brought the long looked for increase of pay to the clerks and subordinate officers of Government, and it is to be hoped will make these appointments more valued by the present holders, and more sought after by the class which fill them. I cannot disguise the fact that much and I think reasonable dissatisfaction exists, that whilst the work and responsibility at this station is so much greater

than at the sister district Ratnapoora, the establishment should be inferior both in number and in classification.

In my judicial administration report, copy of which I annex, I have referred to the very great inconvenience which is occasioned to suitors and others by the combination of revenue and judicial duties under one officer. As revenue officer, I would request a thorough consideration of the duties devolving on the assistant agent of this station, and a comparison of those duties with the like at Manaar, Anaradhapoora, Ratnapoora, Batticaloa, and Badulla, all of which are appointments of 800*l.* each, and the two latter of which are unencumbered with judicial duties. Under every principal head of revenue the receipts at Kaigalle are far larger than that of any of the above-named stations, putting aside rents and licences as beyond reference. Land revenue (a fair criterion of the wealth and resources of a district) greatly exceeds that of the others, whilst the total revenue is, I believe, greater than double that of the next highest in the list.

The population again is equal to that of Badulla, and greater than that of the other districts.

I believe also that the work in any and all of the under-mentioned revenue offices which are held by the assistant agent, viz., Deputy Fiscal, Chairman, District Road Committee, Deputy Postmaster-General, will be found greater at Kaigalle; indeed by whatever standard the relative importance of the several districts is measured, Kaigalle will be found to be pre-eminent.

I would then ask the Government to consider whether the proper performance of these several duties would not fairly occupy and require the time and attention of any one man, without the addition of heavy judicial work.

The judicial work is admitted to be heavy, and, if comparison with other stations be any criterion, is in itself enough for any one officer.

The result of this combination of offices and overburden of work is that the officer in charge is unable to do justice to any one department over which he presides, and though by unceasing exertion and toil he may succeed in carrying on the duties, yet he cannot do so satisfactorily to himself or with advantage to the people. With an increasing revenue already reaching the large sum of 30,000*l.*, it appears somewhat strange that the expenditure on revenue and judicial establishments, &c. should be less than is vouchsafed to districts far below it in point of importance.

A very small increase of a few hundred pounds yearly to the expenditure would admit of the revenue and judicial duties being separated, and an additional officer being appointed, and until such step is taken I maintain that the administration of Government in the district cannot be thoroughly and efficiently carried out. By such a division of duty the assistant agent would be enabled to devote his attention to the best interests of his district, the social and moral condition of the people would be improved, the public monies more carefully expended, and the revenue protected and increased.

I am able to make these observations with better grace than I otherwise could, as I am shortly to be relieved of the charge of the district, and can, therefore, have no personal motive in wishing to magnify or decrease the labour devolving on the officer in charge. I again repeat that although one officer has hitherto and may (if obliged) continue for some time to perform the double duties, yet that he cannot do so with justice to the people, satisfactorily to himself, or ~~with credit to the Government.~~

(Signed) F. R. SAUNDERS, A.G.A.

Assistant Agent's Office,
Kaigalle, February 28, 1865.

REPORT ON THE DISTRICT OF SAFFRAGAM FOR 1864.

In framing a report on the district of Saffragam I am placed at great disadvantage owing to the short time I have had charge of the district, and to the entire absence of all returns in the offices here, statistical or comparative, for the last few years.

I must, therefore, crave the indulgence of his Excellency the Governor if this report is meagre and defective, but I will endeavour in it to show what appear to me to be the most pressing wants of the district, and the means of meeting those wants.

Boundaries of the Saffragam district.

The revenue district of Saffragam comprises the old Dissavony of that name, as held under the Kandyan Government.

It is bounded on the north by the "Three Corles" of Kaigalle district, "Ambegamua," or "Uda Bulatgame" of Kandy district, and Uda Palata of Ouvah; on the east by the "Bintenne," or low-lying lands of Ouvah; on the south by "Giraway Pattoo" of Hambantotte, "Morowe Corle" of Matura, and "Gangabodde Pattoo" of Galle district; and on the west by the "Pasdoon," "Rygam," and "Hewagam Corles" of Colombo district.

If perfectly straight lines from Ratnapoora be drawn on all four sides, its northern limit is 9 miles, eastern 23, southern 19, and western 10 miles distant.

But by the roads the limit towards Badulla, near "Kalupahane," on the Happootelle line, is distant 44 miles towards Hambantotte at "Bedegantotte;" on the Wallaway river, 57 miles; on the road to Pantura at "Nambapāne" on the Kaluganga, 17 miles; on the road to Colombo at "Gattehetta," 24 miles; and on the bridle path to Caltura by Agelawatte, 26 miles. The boundary towards Galle is at the "Haycock," close to which the Gindura is navigable from Galle, and this point is distant by an old footpath about 40 miles, of which 26 are practicable for a horse.

Revenue divisions and subdivisions.

The district is divided into seven Corles, and these are again sub-divided into 19 Pattoos or Palatas, as under, viz.:—

1. Kuruwitte Corle - - -	Palle Patto.
	Medde Pattoo.
	Ude Pattoo.
2. Nawedoon Corle - - -	Three Pattoos, as above.
3. Kukul Corle - - -	The same.
4. Attecalan Corle - - -	Pannil Pattoo.
	Kandewel and Tambegam Pattoo.
	Mede Pattoo.
5. Colonna Corle - - -	Diapotegam Pattoo.
	Colonnagam Pattoo.

CEYLON.

6. Mede Corle - - -	Helanda Palata. Helapalle Palata.
7. Cadawette Corle - - -	Talapitagam Pattoo. Udunakgam Pattoo.

Revenue headmen.

The revenue headmen of the district consist of four Ratamahatmayas, who preside over Kuruwitte Corle, Nawedoon and Kukul, Attakalan and Colonna, Mede and Cadawete Corles.

And subordinate to these chiefs are seven coralles, one for each corle, and under the coralles 18 mohandirams, being one for each pattoo, except Candewel and Tambegam pattoos of Atacalan Corle, which are united under one mohandiram.

Population.

The population of a district must be considered as the ground work for all statistical inquiry regarding it, and it is much to be regretted that no reliable information on this head exists anywhere in the Island.

The headmen's returns give the native population of the district as 71,342, being 38,900 males, and 32,442 females; to be added to this are 19 Europeans, 30 European descendants, and 168 foreign orientals.

The return of Europeans is defective in the first place, as there are 32 in the district.

The returns of orientals (foreign) must likewise be very incorrect, since there cannot be less than 1,500 Tamil labourers employed on the coffee estates in Saffragam.

I have little doubt that the native population is much more than is given by the returns. The number of males between the ages of 18 and 55 available under the Road Ordinance are 18,983, and taking this at one-fifth of the population, the usual calculation, the inhabitants of the district would be 94,915 in number.

There can be no doubt that the "numbering of the people," as stated by the late Governor in his Despatch of 1st February 1861, has been hitherto a matter of some difficulty and delicacy among eastern nations, but I venture to record my belief that no reasons now exist for its being considered so in Ceylon, and I should be quite ready, if allowed, to conduct a census of this or any other district, with the full persuasion that it could be carried out without the least opposition, and with very tolerable accuracy.

The native inhabitants of the district are essentially Kandyans, as the whole of Saffragam was always an integral part of that kingdom ; but from their proximity to the maritime provinces they have adopted many of the habits and customs of the latter people, particularly as respects dress. They are, however, governed by Kandyan law, as far as regards inheritance, and all such matters, as it affects in other parts of the Island. There are many Moor and Chetty traders scattered through the district, and one native village of Moormen introduced during the Kandyan rule.

The coffee estates, which are daily increasing in importance, are worked principally by coast labourers ; but in felling, and all the preliminary operations of an estate, the people of the district are found to be most useful, and readily available, while numbers of them yearly emigrate to estates in all parts of the Island for similar employment.

Coffee cultivation.

Coffee cultivation is now carried on in four distinct portions of the district.

1. The *Rakwane* district, in which I include the new tracts at Gongalle, adjoining the Morowe Corle. There are here 36 different purchases, all of which are under or in process of cultivation, and their produce is estimated at 36,000 cwts. in 1866. Close to them, and adjoining the Morowe Corle, seven lots were sold a few days ago at very good prices, and numerous applications for fresh land in that neighbourhood have been already made, while others are contemplated.

2. The *Bagawantalawe* district, adjoining the Dick Oya valley of Ambegamua. Here, out of 30 lots, 29 have been purchased, and two-thirds at least have been cleared, while many are already planted.

3. *Balangode* district. There are six estates here, but I do not consider any of them as promising as those in the other districts.

4. A few new estates are being opened in continuation of the Happootelle line within the limits of Saffragam, but as yet, though cleared, they are not planted.

Means of internal communication.

The district is now well provided with lines of internal communication. The road from Colombo *viâ* Avisahawelle enters Saffragam at the 33rd mile post from Colombo, and passes through the centre of the Kuriwitte Corle to the town of Ratnapoora, which is situated on the banks of the Kalnganga,

Colombo road.

a navigable river at all seasons from Caltura, and by means of the canal from Colombo.

Happootelle road.

Crossing the Kaluganga at the town, the road runs to Tirewanekettia, a village on the Wey Oya, a tributary stream to the Kaluganga, and the highest navigable point. Here may be said to commence the new Happootelle road, which has been remarkably well executed, and is now open for cart traffic to Kalupahane, within three miles of Haldemulle in the centre of the estates.

Rakwane road.

At Pelmadulla, on this line, 11 miles from Ratnapoora, a branch road runs to Rakwāne, and is practicable for carts to the foot of the estates.

A minor road has been traced to the furthest estate at Gongalle, and another branches off from it (both passable for horses) to Oorabokka in the Morowa Corle, six miles from our limit.

Another bridle road leads off at Madampe on the Rakwane line towards Hambantotte, and is joined by a branch from Balangode, both passable for a horse throughout.

The district road committee has just commenced a trace from the same spot on the Rakwane line, Madampe, to join the Happootelle road at Openaike.

It is also re-opening Mr. Shand's original trace from Tirewanekettia on the left bank of the Wey Oya, to join the present line at Madampe.

An excellent trace was made for the late Sir H. Ward from Bilhool Oya on the Happootelle road, through the Horton plains to Nuwera Ellia. It is in first-rate order for a horse as far as Gallegame Rest house, five miles from the high road; but beyond to Horton plains requires a good deal of repair before it can be used as a bridle road.

To Boltumbe from the high road at Balangode, a good bridle path exists, opened some years ago by the district road committee. From this village a footpath about ten miles long leads you over the range into Bagawantalawe, and another foot path strikes to the left, leading to the abandoned coffee estates at Bambrebotua, to which place the district road committee have lately been reopening the trace from Ratnapoora, made at great expense by the planters, with some aid from Government, in 1849.

From the point C on this line, I believe an excellent trace may be obtained to Bagawantalawe, and I am most desirous it should be examined before any decision as to the outlet of the Dick Oya valley is decided upon.

It is also expedient that the country between the Bagawantalawe Patua and Boltumbe be likewise examined; for if the line by Bambrebotua be not practicable at a moderate length, there can, I think, exist no doubt that a road can be led without difficulty over the range at Deteniagalle joining the Happootelle road at Balangode, 26 miles from water carriage.

This outlet may not be quite as pleasing to the gentlemen holding land near Dick Oya, but it will be far more practicable for those near the Patua, and we must look to the possibility of a further opening of land in the forests of the Maskelya valley, and the ranges westward from the Patna towards the Peak.

This old road to the Bambrebotua estates is common for five miles with that to the Peak, a line traced and opened some years ago as far as the royal village of Gillemalle, but having been allowed to fall into disrepair, it became much overgrown, and impassable for a horse. It has just been reopened for bridle traffic as far as Gillemalle.

From Ratnapoora a bridle path was traced years ago towards Caltura, through the Kukul Corle; but though opened on the other side into that corle, and at this end for about six miles, upwards of 10 miles were left untouched in the middle. This is now being cleared, and from it I hope ere long to have two lines passable for horses leading north and south through the Kukul Corle, with a third connecting that corle and the coffee estates at Rakwane.

Some few months ago I paid a visit to that corle, entering it on the Kaluganga at Nambapane, and passing up the line No. 13 and down No. 14 I made my way by a foot path towards the Haycoch. I was astonished to find that no agent had passed beyond Delgode D since Mr. Forbes in 1819, and that on the line No. , which route I afterwards took, and which lay through several fine villages, no agent had travelled since the British accession. I mention this to show how essential it is those districts should be opened out, and I think, considering the large extent of bridle paths we are opening in the district, we ought to receive a larger share of the Government grant in aid of minor works from which we derive no benefit, except in the shape of a supply of tools.

From Ratnapoora along the banks of the Kaluganga a road runs to Pantura, the ancient line of communication with the maritime provinces. It is open from Pantura and Caltura for carts to Nambapane; and the district road committee have on this side opened and bridged for cart traffic about six miles, but it is quite out of our power to continue the execution of it except as a bridle path, with the means at our disposal. I consider it a most useful line, and a grant from Government to complete its opening would be very well bestowed.

Half way from Ratnapoora to Nambapana, a bridle path leads to the Colombo road at Talavitia, and this completes the various means of communication in the district.

I append to this report a map showing all these lines of road, both principal and minor. The survey is not yet complete of all the minor roads, but as a person is engaged at this work, I hope by the middle of the year to have the whole of them properly laid down on the map.

I confess, however, I despair of seeing much more laid down on the map than these roads, which are being done by a private surveyor at the expense of the district committee. Since the reduction of the Survey department in 1861, the constant demand for surveyors by assistant agents has been generally refused. I may be considered too obstinate in pertinaciously repeating my applications for the aid of these officers, but I believe I am only doing my duty in continuing, on every opportunity afforded me, to impress upon the Government the evils of the policy, as I venture to view them, which dictated the reduction of that useful department.

Most truly did the late Sir H. Ward remark, in his address to Council in 1858, that "even the large "addition made to the Survey department would hardly keep pace with the wants of the Colony, and "certainly not exceed them, for the next 20 years."

Applications for land from natives in every portion of the district are lying unattended to; numerous paddy fields, declared Crown property, and which would be eagerly purchased at high rates, cannot be sold because unsurveyed; large tracts of forest, applied for by European planters, remain untouched; while native squatters are encroaching on Crown lands along all the lines of road, with every probability of having acquired a title by prescription before it is in the power of the assistant agent to eject them.

I have no doubt whatever that a surveyor, attending only to native applications and claims, and costing with his 10 coolies about 400*l.* a year, would prepare sufficient lands for the next three years to realize, by the purchase money alone, exclusive of fees, 3,000*l.* a year.

But what is this view, as to whether it will pay or not, compared with the social benefits which must result from surveys, from settlements of native claims, and the means thus afforded to the industrious portion of the people of providing themselves with land, and cultivating paddy, coffee, and other new and paying productions of the soil?

The people of this district and generally of the whole Island are purely agricultural, and the complete uncertainty which exists as to the tenure of lands which they claim, and which, subject as they are to a grain tax, may be taxed by one assistant agent as private, and by another as public property, is utterly fatal to all improvement on the part of the people, and to all confidence in the ruling power.

Is it possible to devise any more effectual bar to all improvement than for the Crown, which here owns all lands worth having, to forbid, as it does most properly, all squatting on its domain, and yet to withhold those lands from persons who are anxious to purchase and improve them?

All this is generally acknowledged in theory, and the Legislative Council in addressing the Governor in 1855, recorded their belief that "too much importance could hardly be attached to the question of "rendering available to the native inhabitants, lands which are suited for the purpose."

But in practice it is very different. The department has been reduced, and all the applications of the agents for extra surveying officers are met with a refusal.

Nothing is, nothing can possibly be, more discouraging to a public servant, entrusted with the well-being of a district, and who desires its progress, and the development of its material prosperity, than to see those desires thwarted, and all chance of improvement denied to the industrious portion of the

CEYLON.

people under him, because the Government will not incur a trifling expenditure, an expenditure which would be returned to it five-fold within the year.

I do not urge this point because the Survey department is any hobby of my own, but because I have lived 18 years as a public servant in this Colony; because I have seen the ruin caused by the policy I deprecate before the increase to the department in 1855, and the material improvements caused by the ready acquirement of land in previously neglected districts; because I know intimately the native language, and therefore have been able to learn the feelings of the people from themselves on the subject; and because I believe it is our duty to act as a paternal Government, and to afford the people entrusted to our charge the means of improvement when they are powerless without our aid.

Mainly coffee lands.

"Land sales" in this district realized last year 12,916*l.*, exclusive of fees, and already this year have reached 3,500*l.* It is true that an officer is still employed preparing forest land for European applicants at Gongalie, near the Morowe Corle, but I can obtain no favourable reply to my demands for one to attend to native claims, and a gentleman who was employed in surveying Temple lands, and who as he came across them could take up a few cases, has just been withdrawn to take levels at Dewitorre in the Galle district.

Tenure of land.

Disregard of Crown rights.

As without a surveyor I am powerless to settle the title of the Crown, where it is disputed, I may properly turn here to consider the "tenure of land" in this district, and the manner in which the rights of the Crown are as I believe, habitually disregarded.

There are several royal villages or "Gabadagamas" in the district, where, though the tenants have a parveny right to certain of the lands, the rest were held in "Anda" or "Ninda" under the Crown, the "Anda" paying one-half share, and the "Ninda" lands being cultivated gratuitously by the tenants, giving the whole produce to the royal granary.

In many of these villages I am convinced these lands have been usurped by the more influential families, and often by the descendants of the "Vidahus," or village headmen, who held and managed the villages for the king.

Numerous shares or "Panguas" were held by certain castes, for peculiar services, and where these castes have died out, or left the villages, the lands would at once revert to the Crown or the landlord of the village. I believe that in all the "Gabadagamas" in this district, numerous "Panguas" have thus reverted, but been taken wrongful possession of by the village headmen or others.

My time has been too much occupied with various duties to have been able to make any full and conclusive inquiries into these matters, but from investigations at *Gillimalle*, a large royal village, I ascertained that several of these service "Panguas" were held by the family of the "Mudaly" of the village, though they had all of them indubitably lapsed to the Crown, by failure of heirs, and being a "royal village" could not by any process of reasoning lapse to the mere village headmen, who I also discovered had for years past exacted the same services from the tenants as he would have done had it been his own "Nindagama."

I hope to be able to spare a week ere long for completing the inquiries at this village, and I feel quite sure the result will show that such investigations are needed in every one of the royal villages of the district.

As at present advised I doubt if the high lands in a Gabadagama could be alienated by the tenants, and I am quite certain "forest" could not be claimed by them. But at "Keudangomna" on the Colombo road, and "Balangodde" on the Happootella road, both of which are royal villages, valuable high land on either side of the road is being sold by the inhabitants, and several acres at the latter village is claimed by Mr. Power, the late assistant agent, as purchased from a relative of the Ratamahatmayas.

The tenants in these royal villages were bound to perform certain services to the Crown, which by the Order in Council of 12th of April 1832 were specially reserved, as were those in Temple villages, and in the Nindagamas of private proprietors. These latter, to this day, perform services to their chiefs and likewise pay $\frac{1}{14}$ tax on the grain grown by them. But the tenants of the "Gabadagamas" perform no service, and simply pay the same tax. I doubt the wisdom of this arrangement, and consider that the services due by them to the Crown should be commuted by a money payment. But I can see no possible objection, if we do not do this, in requiring them to improve their lands by making proper water channels, and regularly irrigating them.

The village of "Gillimalle," referred to before, affords peculiar facilities for irrigation, and if a dam were built across one of the streams there at least 200 amonams could be regularly cultivated. This scheme was proposed by Messrs. Mooyaart and Power on more than one occasion, and Mr. Power suggested the employment of the tenants on it, as they were liable to service on account of the lands they held. The Government Agent, however, I believe considered such a suggestion impracticable, but I would respectfully submit that I concur in Mr. Power's view, and that as these services were specially retained when compulsory service generally was abolished, we have a right to require them, the more especially when the result of their labour would be to materially benefit themselves.

The Surveyor-General was good enough to lend me the services of Mr. O'Dowd to take the levels of this particular water-course, and I shall be able, as soon as I get the plans, to submit an estimate for the dam, when I shall propose that the earthwork, and all unskilled labour, be performed by the inhabitants of the village who are tenants of the Crown.

In Nindagamas.

Some of the finest villages of the district are held on this tenure, and as regards those which we find entered in the old "Lecamitiyas" there can be no doubt. Many others however are claimed as "Nindagamas" on false "Sannases" or "Seetoos," which are not so entered, and these need careful inquiry.

But inquiry is necessary in every "Nindagama," as the proprietors give certain boundaries containing many square miles, claiming every thing within them, fields, chenas, gardens, and forest. On inquiry it will be found that the "Sannas" only recites a certain number of "amonams" of mud land, and gives "the high land dwelling gardens, and trees" within the limits, sometimes not even naming the "trees."

I have every reason to believe that "forest" never was given, or intended to be given by the late king, but at all events in the case of every one of these "Nindagamas," a full inquiry should be made, and a decision one way or the other arrived at.

In the village of "Dodampe" no less than 300 valuable trees were cut some time ago by low country Singhalese with the permission of the proprietor, who received about 1*s.* 6*d.* a tree. Though I prohibited the cutting of any more trees till I was able to decide the proprietor's title, an application was made to me a few days ago to pass another 400 trees felled in the same village, which is situated on the banks of the Kaluganga.

In the village "Galpaya," on the strength of Seetoos for 2½ amonams of mud land, no less than 21 square miles are claimed.

In Colonna Corle upwards of nine square miles of forest and chena are claimed as appurtenances of about one amonam of mud land in a neighbouring village.

In the village of "Delwala," the proprietor claims on his own behalf and that of his tenants a very large extent of forest, 30 amonams of fields, with 10 amonams of "owittes," and chenas innumerable, while by the old "Lecamitiyas," we find only 9 amonams of fields, clearly showing that much of the present cultivation must have been aswedumised from Crown land.

In other villages.

But the inquiries needed in the above two classes of villages are nothing compared with what is required generally.

Paddy fields.

I do not think, from what I have seen, that we have to apprehend very large encroachments in paddy fields, and as regards them we have certain guides in the registers made in 1832 for commutation, the subsequent registers, and the "Hee Lecammitiya," which was completed about five years before the British accession. In this "Hee Lecammitiya," the Kandyans place the most implicit confidence, and the fact of a "Pangua" being there registered as belonging to one family, while it is now held by another, would, unless the latter could show his title, be considered conclusive proof of its having become "Malepatu," or the property of the Crown, as all lands do on failure of heirs.

High lands.

The necessity for inquiry as regards high lands is daily becoming more and more urgently necessary. It is impossible for me to describe the destruction of forest which must have taken place during the last 40 years.

In 1821 it was brought to the notice of the agents of Government by Mr. Lusignan, who on the 18th July 1821, addressed the Kandyan board of commissioners on the subject, and prohibited the cutting of any new jungles without a written permission.

As a general rule, there can be no doubt whatever that every field has an appurtenance of owitte, and of chena, or high land used for that purpose. The people of this district however have grown into the habit of claiming as their "parveny" property, not the fair appurtenances of the fields, but the entire high land, chena, or forest within the limits of the village.

Mr. Price, as far back as 1843, brought this to the notice of the Government agent, and then stated that he believed the cutting in forest was not extensive, and had been checked since that date. I have no doubt, from what I have seen on my tours through the district, wholesale forest clearing has been extensively practised, and is still carried on whenever an opportunity offers in places which the agent is not likely to visit. In 1862 and 1863 upwards of 100 acres of fine virgin forest were cleared in different places in Colonna Corle, principally by "Gireway Pattoo" people, giving a share to owners of paddy fields in the village, who had the impudence to claim the forests before me as their parveny property, and to tell me, while standing in the very forest itself, that it had been cleared every 10 years since they could recollect.

If these high lands are cultivated with paddy or "Ellwee," they pay a tax of $\frac{1}{14}$ as private lands, but if fine grain be sown upon them no tax is levied.

And it is to this non-taxation of all fine grain crops that I attribute much of the wholesale destruction of forest by chena cutting which has gone on in this district for years, and which led Sir H. Ward, in his visit in 1858, to remark "the country has been chenaed up to the top of the highest hills; a foolish "and short-sighted practice which must long prove a bar to improvement;" and again "the country is "spoilt by the chena system, which must have prevailed to an extent that bespeaks a laxity on the part "of the local authorities hardly to be exceeded in the Eastern province."

No list therefore of fine grain chenas was ever made, and the agent was never aware what lands were cultivated with fine grain, and what were not. I have now remedied this by having wattoors or taxation lists framed of every cultivated land, reserving to myself then, and not leaving to headmen, the power of decision as to its liability or otherwise to tax.

Whatever reasons may have existed for not taxing fine grain in the Kandyan provinces hitherto, it appears to me the time has arrived for doing so now, and assimilating them to the neighbouring districts in the southern and eastern provinces.

I especially urge the necessity of adopting some means at once of discouraging this species of cultivation, since I believe it to be positively prejudicial to those who practise it, because the grain itself is a most hurtful article of food, and sooner or later impoverishes the blood, and produces serious disorders amongst those who consume it.

I have little doubt that the immunity from tax on fine grain originated in the fact that the poorest classes only resorted to it, who performed other services to the king, or to their landlords, by supplying betel, jaggery, or a portion of their crops in the shape of chillies. But at the present day, except in some very remote districts such as parts of Bintenne, no such poverty exists. The cultivation is carried on in this district as it is in others, because it is the easiest and most productive mode of cultivation, and the people, naturally lazy, enjoy the wandering easy life which it affords them.

This love of a wandering life which it engenders is one of its greatest evils, and we shall never improve the character of the people, or develop their good qualities, till we induce them to settle on their legitimate property, and devote their energies to more permanent cultivation in gardens and paddy fields.

I have long looked upon this system of cultivation in the same light as Mr. Russell does, as "an unmixed evil," and though I agree with him that we cannot entirely abolish it at once, I consider we ought to use the most persistent efforts to check it, even on private lands, and the best remedy I can see for doing so is to impose the usual grain tax of $\frac{1}{14}$ on such crops.

But if we put a stop to it in one district we must do so in all, and I think more attention should be paid to it in the neighbouring district of Omah. Since I have been strict in the corles bordering that district my people go across the Wallavay river and cut chenas in Crown lands, paying as they inform

CEYLON.

me a tax simply of 2*s.* for each chena to the headman for the cutcherry. I much doubt whether this chena cutting is reported to the Badulla cutcherry in its full extent, and I should like to investigate the subject in company with the assistant agent of Badulla along the Wallaway Oya.

I trust I have here shown the necessity of regular inquiry by the assistant agent without delay into the relative rights of the inhabitants and of the Crown, as regards land in this district, but to enable him to undertake them he must be relieved of his judicial duties.

I have now had six months' experience of the work here, and have been stationed in other districts where I have often temporarily done the whole work of the station. I believe the credit will be generally accorded to me of being ready and willing to do as much as I can to give the public a fair equivalent of work for the salary they pay me as their servant, but I have no hesitation whatever in deliberately recording my opinion that no one man can conduct the various duties imposed upon him at this station with satisfaction to himself, or with anything but positive injustice to the people.

The assistant agent of this district has, in addition to his legitimate and regular duties as such, to perform those of the district judge, commissioner of requests, police magistrate, coroner, justice of peace, deputy fiscal, chairman of the road committee, chairman of the sub-committee of education, and deputy postmaster-general.

My predecessor, Mr. Russell, most fully explained the utter impossibility of one man continuing to perform those duties in two letters, copies of which I annex to this report, and as in his views therein expressed I most cordially concur, I hardly think it necessary for me to say more.

I venture, however, to annex to this report a statement showing the comparative work in the other first-class stations where more than one officer is stationed, and it will be observed that the work at Badulla is little more than one-third of that here, while the grain revenue does not yield, I believe, over 2,700*l.* a year.

The work in the Batticaloa Courts, where I was resident as assistant agent and as district judge for eight years and a half, is heavier than Ratnapoora, but its population is about the same, and its grain revenue (which was 3,583*l.*, including chenas, for 1864) easier to collect than that of this district. After three years and a half experience of the duties of an assistant agent at that station, I can confidently assert that if an assistant agent conscientiously carries out all the duties that pertain to his office, he would have his time more fully occupied here than at Batticaloa, owing to the complicated and lengthy inquiries necessitated here by the different tenures of land.

If the assistant agent now attends to his revenue duties he must neglect the Court, and his constant absence, selling rents in the interior, amounts to an absolute denial of justice. If, on the other hand, he regularly carries through the work of the Courts, not only will the revenue suffer in amount, every species of chicanery and fraud will be practised by the native headmen, the Crown domain be systematically destroyed, and the district generally become disorganized.

Mr. Curgenven's assistance in the minor courts.

I must not conceal my conviction that the temporary measure adopted of sending Mr. Curgenven to assist me in the minor courts for a part of the month can be productive of no permanent good. I trust I have succeeded in showing that for some years to come the assistant agent has quite enough before him, in his own legitimate duties, to fully occupy his time, and that, until the rights to land, as between the Crown and the people, are satisfactorily defined, his whole attention should be devoted to that subject.

Work done in Courtsfor 1864.

A return of cases instituted and decided during 1864 in all the Courts will be found in the Appendix. The arrears there shown cannot be relied upon as correct, since the Court records were, until lately, kept in the most wretched confusion, or not kept at all. Registers have, however, been framed in all the Courts, and the state of each case is being gradually noted in them, so that before long I shall hope to be in a position satisfactorily to state the number of arrears.

Nature of cases before the courts.

Statements are also annexed showing the nature of cases, civil and criminal, instituted in the several Courts during the past year.

Inquests.

A return of the inquests held, and their results, will be found in the Appendix.

Cases before the Supreme Court.

A statement showing the cases tried from this district before the Supreme Court during 1864 will likewise be found.

Powers of Queen's Advocate to withdraw cases from trial.

I very much regret that the "murder" case there shown as "withdrawn" was not tried. After a tedious and lengthened investigation I came to the conclusion that there was sufficient legal circumstantial evidence that the deceased was murdered, and sufficient legal evidence directly connecting the accused with the murder, and I committed them for trial. The Deputy Queen's Advocate in Colombo, however, took upon himself to doubt the truth of the evidence, and though I had heard the witnesses give it, and from their demeanour was led to believe them, he was pleased to declare his conviction of its "palpable falsity," and declined, notwithstanding my remonstrances, to send the case to the jury.

The current report throughout the district bore me out in the belief I had formed that it was a true case and where there is any evidence at all, and the responsible local officer considers it a case for a jury, I submit it is a most unsafe power to confide in a Deputy Queen's Advocate to judge of the truth or otherwise of evidence which he has not heard, and only seen on paper. I believe that in this particular instance that officer is now responsible for a direct miscarriage of justice, and that three murderers have escaped.

Two other undoubted murders occurred in the district during the year, but the perpetrators could not be discovered.

Cattle stealing.

I have reason to believe that "cattle stealing" prevails to a great extent in the corles bordering on the Caltura, Galle, and Matura districts, but that the cases when discovered are generally compromised. But I hope, with the aid of the officers in the southern province to check it ere long.

Appeals.

A return of appeals from the courts and their results will also be found in the Appendix.

Revenue.

A comparative statement of the "revenue" for the last 10 years is annexed to this report, and it will be seen by it that the district is steadily increasing in importance and prosperity.

Grain tax.

The largest item of revenue is the "grain tax," which has during that series of years been farmed by villages, and was in 1863 more than double that of 1854.

There is in last year a decrease of 527*l.*, but I attribute this to no diminution of cultivation, but to the fluctuating prices offered for the rents and to the very changeable weather of last year when the crops alternately suffered from drought and from inundations.

CEYLON.

The sales of this harvest however bid fair to realise higher prices than have been yet reached. The most detailed statements are being kept, and I shall be able at the end of each harvest, to furnish returns of all lands cultivated, showing those taxed, and the amount realised, as well as the value of all exemptions whether on account of temples, perpetual exemptions for loyalty, or temporary freedom from taxation for office as headmen.

Temple lands.

I shall likewise be able to show the amount of tax received from lands rejected by the Temple Lands Commission, whose inquiries in this district have all been completed, and thanks to Mr. Wodehouse's exertions with very marked success, as will be seen by the return in the Appendix.

Exemptions.

This return shows how the Crown has been defrauded for years of its legal dues upon lands claimed by temples only, but I believe that inquiries are necessary into the tenure of all the lands for which exemption is now claimed, exemptions which amount to a very considerable sum and which have hitherto been apparently all accepted on the faith of the headmen's reports; for, as I have previously noticed, no lands but those held by the native officers as liable to taxation were entered in the wattoors. Mr. Turnour, the most able of all the government servants in the Kandyan districts, predicted great fraud on this head as far back as 1824, and I believe it exists to an incredible extent.

Idamalgode Ratemahatmeya has been for years exempted from all tax as Basnayke Nilleme, an office not entitling him to that indulgence, and the annual amount of his exemptions on that account cannot be less than 100*l.*

Several old families, that of Doloswala among others, were exempted perpetually from tax on all lands they *then* held for loyalty, but they now claim thousands of acres without, I believe, any legal title, and which high and low lands are at present exempt from tax.

When all ~~these~~ inquiries are ~~satisf~~factorily settled the grain revenue will doubtless be much larger, but they will take a very long time to carry out as long as the assistant agent is hampered by the Courts.

The grain tax on paddy fields was formerly commuted in this district. It was first assessed for that purpose in 1833, and commuted with renewals till 1847. The system was then discontinued for two years, and a fresh commutation sanctioned by Mr. Wodehouse from 1850 to 1852.

The renewal of the system was very strongly and very ably recommended by Mr. Mitford, but his wishes were overruled, and the tax has been farmed out since that date.

I have written so much on the subject of commutation as the only equitable mode of collecting a grain tax, and my views regarding it are so well known, that it would be surperfluous in me to attempt to advocate it here as a system. It is a question with which the Government must deal sooner or later, and I believe the result, in a few years, will be its universal adoption.

From the recorded opinions of the government agent of this province in reply to Mr. Mitford and other assistant agents who addressed him on the subject from 1852 to 1856, I fear any recommendations of mine for its adoption would only meet with rejection.

It appears to me from the correspondence on record that too much stress is laid in this matter, as in others, on the necessity of uniformity in the province, and because the system of renting in Colombo, Caltura, and Megombo is carried out, it is held that it must answer equally well here, quite forgetting that this district is a Kandyan province, which till within the last 50 years had its own laws, and customs, and was governed by the native servants of an arbitrary king.

Convinced I am at all events that the evils of the renting system tell with four-fold force on the Kandyan people. They are more ignorant, more purely agricultural, and more easily imposed on, and the low country renters practise on them the most cruel extortion.

The absence of cases in the Courts is no criterion whatever of the system working well, but is simply a proof of the uncomplaining patience with which the Kandyan bears the cruel extortion of his oppressors.

The general assessment of 1850 appears to me much too low. Its highest rates in the best corles were based on a yield of eight fold, and the price of paddy calculated at 1*s.* a bushel.

Whatever the reasons for those rates then, the price might now safely be doubled in all the corles, but Kukul and Colonna.

A new commutation is now being carried on in the neighbouring district of Badulla, and I would most respectfully urge the advisability and the justice (for it must be admitted that the present system of collection is most unjust) of commencing such a settlement here. If made under the active superintendence of the assistant agent, and carefully scrutinized by him on the spot, in the villages where he can hear all parties, I feel quite sure it will ever be found to be as profitable to the Government as the renting system, and infinitely more equitable to the cultivator.

Detailed statement of grain tax.

As some of the rent-books for 1863 have been lost, I am unable to frame a comparative statement of the grain tax in the several corles, but I append a full table of the recoveries for 1864, showing from which corles, for what harvests, and at what rates it was received.

Rents.

Under the head rents are included house-rent and tolls. This item will show a slight increase in 1865 as the new tolls on the Balangode road sold for 238*l.*, and there was a general increase, though a most insufficient one, on the others of 109*l.*

The tolls on the Happootelle road have been sold at absurdly low rates. The traffic on that road has doubled since last year, and the tolls have sold as follows, in comparison with 1864:—

	1864.	1865.
	£	£
Toll at 62 mile post - - - -	501	530
„ 72 „ - - - -	301	260
„ 82 „ - -	New from January 1, 1865.	167
„ 92 „ - -	New from January 1, 1865.	71

It is generally said that the renter of the last toll has already made more than enough to pay for his whole year's rent. I can quite believe it, for during the season 100,000 cwts. of coffee have been sent down to Tirewanekettia, and upwards of 4,000 bushels of rice are now monthly sent up; and only a few weeks ago, I personally counted over 90 carts going up between Balangode and Palmadulla, and over 60 between the latter place and Tirewanekettia.

CEYLON.

I cannot possibly imagine how the second toll could have been allowed to go for less than last year, when it must have been known that the traffic on the road was daily increasing, and had I been consulted in any way regarding it, I should have recommended such an offer being refused, and its being put up again in this district, or collected in aumany.

But the assistant agent here is allowed no control over the toll rents of his district, nor is he even consulted about them in any way. Before the rents of 1865 were sold I suggested their being put up at this cutcnerry as well as at Colombo, as it was represented to me that many might offer here ; and though not attended to then, the Government agent has consented to its being tried next year. Under any circumstances I submit that in selling the next rents of both tolls and arrack, a distinct provision should be made for the payment of the instalments at this cutcherry.

During 1864 we had heavy remittances from Colombo by Esort to meet the demands on the treasury, and yet the Government agent at Colombo collected no less than 12,715*l.* of the legitimate revenue inthis district which ought to have been paid at this cutcherry.

I submit that steps should be taken to provide for this at the sale of the arrack farm in May or June next.

Licences. Under the head of licences, carriers paid 46*l.* 4*s.*, owners of guns 26*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, traders 1*l.*, and the rest was realized by the arrack farm.

Stamps. The revenue under this head is to my mind unsatisfactory. I attribute it very much to a stagnation of business in the courts, and to a want of proper supervision as to the stamps used on documents and filed in cases.

Taxes. This was the first year of an assessment tax being levied. The assessment at Tirewanekettia and at Ratnapoora amounts to 80*l.*, of which it appears only 34*l.* was collected in the year. A few days ago I distrained in the town, and the arrears have been paid up. The assessment is ridiculously low.

Postage. This item of postage is incorrectly stated for 1864. Postage was brought to account in Colombo as it was remitted there, and the amount here shown, 88*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*, ought properly to have been "Postage Stamps." All the postage on letters is from the 1st January last brought to account here.

The number of letters, parcels, &c., received at Ratnapoora during 1864 were 34,570, and 30,699 were despatched during the same period. Of these 972 were registered.

The post office clerk is paid an absurdly low rate for the work he has to perform, viz., 24*l.* a year, and I beg respectfully, but most strongly, to urge an increase.

The remaining items in the revenue statement need no comment. "Maintenance of prisoners" appears never to have been recovered till Mr. Russell's advent, and then to have been remitted to Colombo, but it is now brought to account at this cutcherry.

Public buildings. Assistant Agent's house. The repairs of the public buildings require some attention. I have repeatedly urged on the Government the state of my house, and as I believe its repair has been ordered I will say no more about it here.

Public offices in the fort. The whole of the public offices are situated in the fort, and are most convenient for the transaction of business. They are in tolerable repair, but all require paint on the woodwook for preservation alone in this wet climate. The verandah of the district court needs paving with bricks; a privy is urgently required in the fort; and a new room should be erected at the end of the range of court offices.

This extra room would cost about 60*l.*, and with one which I have recommended the district committee to build, would provide abundance of accommodation for all the public offices.

I would venture to ask for an *immediate* vote of about 60*l.* for the privy and the paving of the court verandah, as well as for the painting of the posts and doors.

Gaol. The gaol is a very fair building; it is badly drained, and the civil engineer has been working at its repair for the last 12 months without success, and is still engaged on it, though his estimate of 37*l.* ought long ago to have been exhausted.

Slaughter-house. It is very desirable that the butchers should be provided with a public slaughter-house here. An estimate has been framed for one for 55*l.*, and a suitable site chosen on the river.

Powder magazine. I would again beg to recommend that a magazine be erected here. I consider no town should be without such a depôt. An estimate has been framed for one at 172*l.* If this was built the civil engineer department and district committee powder kept for public works would be stored also in it.

Burial ground. The burial ground is situated on one side of a plain belonging to Government, and admitting of extension. I think it is to be regretted it is not made a general burial ground, and walled in. The expenses would not be large.

Church. A small building was erected by Mr. Mitford from his private funds, and divine service is now performed in it by a clergyman, who is maintained by the diocesan fund and local subscriptions. This building needs repairs very much, and I would solicit a small vote for the purpose, which, as the district subscribes yearly about 180*l.* for its clergyman, will I hope not be withheld.

Police station. We pay at present 1*l.* a month for a police station in the middle of the bazaar, a most objectionable locality. I propose a new station should be erected on a piece of available land close to the fort gate, where the police would act as an additional protection to the treasury. It would not cost more than 150*l.*, which is about the capital represented by the present rent.

Rest houses: The district road committee has for some time urged on the provincial committee the necessity of putting the rest houses of the district into proper order, and more especially on the Hapootelle line, but without avail.

At Bibhool Oya. The erection of a new building at Bibhool Oya was sanctioned last year, but the provincial road committee will not commence it. In the meantime the only resting place at that station is a miserable thatched shed with one room.

At Balangode. The rest house at Balangode is a small building with two rooms and no verandah, and is in a most dilapidated state. It should be pulled down, and a similar building, with a verandah round it, be erected of stone or brick.

At Palmadulla. The rest house at Pelmadula is a miserable little place, and considering the importance of the station, and that the fees give about 30*l.* a year, we can certainly afford a better building. The district committee has recommended a new building here at a cost of 375*l.*, as sanctioned at Bibhool Oya, which with the rest house at Hapootelle will give a good building at the 11th, 35th, and 54 miles, with smaller resting places at the 25 and 45 miles.

The rest house at Ratnapoora is at present unsafe, and has been reported to be in that condition. I have been advised by the chairman of the provincial road committee to prop it, and I have also been recommended to make addition to Palmadulla. The former building is not worth the propping, nor the latter deserving of the addition, and I look upon all this patch-work as by far the most expensive system in the end. At Ratnapoora.

The provincial committee have a rest-house reserved fund, towards which this district contributes (or is rather forced to contribute, for it is not given the option of refusing,) 127*l.* a year. The district road committee has no objection to raise to this arrangement, though it denies the legal right of the provincial road committee to deduct so much from the whole quota of labour due from the district, but it contends that it should be allowed some voice in the management and up-keep of its rest houses, and that it has a right to ask that they be kept in proper repair, and it further contends that it has a right to be informed of the disbursement of this rest-house fund, and to know what has been done with the 1,500*l.* which it must have contributed to that fund since the ordinance came into operation. The receipts by fees from rest houses in 1864 are shown in the Appendix. Provincial Committee rest-house fund.

On Mr. Russell's arrival here, in September 1863, he found the whole business of the Road ordinance at a stand-still, and that large lists of defaulters of 1862 were lying in the office unattended to. He placed them in court with the lists of 1863, and they were partially recovered during last year, with the current lists of that year. District Road Committee business.

During 1864 we recovered 285*l.* of former years, but I have now been obliged, owing to the extra labour and incessant trouble imposed on the headmen in recovering these arrears, to withdraw the lists of 1862 and 1863. Recoveries of arrears.

For 1864 we recovered during the year 1,852*l.* 15*s.*, as will be seen by the statement annexed. Receipts in 1864.

The expenditure on minor roads, which is shown in another statement, under the district road committee during 1864 was very satisfactory, and I am well satisfied with the progress made. Expenditure in 1864.

The district committee desire to do nothing further this year than work on the bridle paths they have commenced, and get as much of them into good order as the means at their disposal will allow.

When on the point of leaving for England, Mr. Russell framed a new set of rules under the Irrigation ordinance for this district, which have since been approved by Government, and published. I am only waiting for Singhalese translations to bring them generally into operation. Irrigation ordinance and rules.

Had I not been so overwhelmed with work since I have had charge of this district, I should long ago have taken up and worked more perseveringly this truly useful ordinance ; for I am quite convinced that it may be satisfactorily worked, and made to prove of the greatest advantage to the people in every district of the Island. I deeply regret it has been so neglected here, but, unfortunately, Mr. Power disapproved of it, and would not, therefore, give it his support and countenance.

Without this supervision on the part of the assistant agent, the people can do nothing. All their communities are wanting in unanimity, and without a superior guide, whom they will follow as a child his parents, or a pupil his master, they are utterly incapable of united action.

I know of no district in the Island so beautifully situated as regards supplies of water for irrigating its fields, and believing, as I do, that water is the great means by which we can benefit the native inhabitants of this Island, and that in no way can Government more profitably invest its money, since without looking to the vast social benefits that are conferred on the people by giving them the means of securing a *certain* rotation of grain harvests, it is beyond doubt that the security alone of a fixed yearly tax yields ample interest on the principal outlay; believing, I say, all this, I am most anxious to be the means, during my administration of the district, of obtaining for the people material assistance towards permanent improvement of some of their irrigation channels.

As a first step towards any improvement of these channels, even by the united action of the people themselves under the Irrigation ordinance, I think rough surveys are desirable, and I proposed to the Government agent the appointment of a surveyor for this district last September, in a letter which will be found in the Appendix. Survey of channels.

I also in that letter proposed to the Government agent a request for 400*l.*, to be applied under his directions for repair and up-keep of irrigation works. The rules proposed precluded any possible frittering away of the money on unprofitable works, but it placed a sum available on the estimates for expenditure in aid of useful works subject to the control and approval of the Government, and thus rendered it possible for a governor to give immediate aid in small works, without being obliged to defer every thing till the next year when the proposal was probably shelved. General vote for grant in aid of irrigation works.

I am unaware of any other reasons on the part of Mr. Layard for not submitting my proposal, except one that he gave me, that there was no probability whatever of its being entertained; but I now venture to ask his Excellency's attention to the proposal, and his favourable consideration for it. The practice exists generally throughout India, and if a Government agent is fit to be entrusted with the charge of his province, and an assistant agent of his district, I submit he may safely be allowed the control and distribution of a few hundred pounds for the welfare of the people under him, especially when that expenditure is regulated by such rules as those I have laid down.

A custom exists in this district which may be made much use of in effecting large improvements in watercourses, or in undertaking any works of magnitude, that of paying one-quarter of all crops to any person who makes and keeps up the watercourse which irrigates those crops. Private ellas.

The largest watercourse in the district maintained in this way is called the Damme Ella, and was originally constructed by Iddemalgode Rattemahatmeya, watering upwards of 500 acres in the villages of Damme, Dollebodde, Galgomma, Millewittia, Radella, and Marelia. Its extension has been traced, but not yet carried out to Diniawe and Dambuluwawe, and it is desirable to convey it also to Carangode across the river, which may easily be accomplished in iron pipes. Damme ella.

The stream is obtained by a permanent masonry dam over the Niriella, and the channels have been carried with much labour on embankments of great length for a distance of at least five miles. From all the lands watered up to date, the Rattemahatmeya receives one-quarter of the crop as a water rent. I will suppose that an acre sows two bushels and yields 20 bushels at ten-fold; 500 acres by 20 = 10,000 bushels, and the quarter will be 2,500 bushels at 2*s.* a bushel, or 250*l.* a year, as the interest on what he says has been an expenditure of 4,000*l.* ; but that he has spent this amount I do not believe.

CEYLON.

As I do not think the Rattemahatmeya will continue its extension, even if he lives, which is at present most doubtful, I must advocate the immediate extension of the whole line by the Irrigation ordinance, with supplemental aid from Government. The watercourse shall be formed along the whole line by the means at our command under the ordinance; but where any masonry may be necessary I must ask for some aid from Government; and I recommend that an additional taxation be put on all lands watered by the works executed by Government of one-quarter the crop till the outlay be repaid, but no longer.

I would at once turn out the people on this work were I sure of the necessary assistance from Government, but as I know the whole operations would come to a standstill if this aid were not forthcoming, it is useless to waste time, of which I have little to spare, in framing estimates or laying out the work, until I have reasonable hopes of such a request being successful.

If the principle were once acknowledged that the Government would every year set aside such a sum as they could spare for irrigation purposes as grants in aid of works which might be submitted to them, an assistant agent would cheerfully devote his time and energy to their careful supervision; but he loses all heart and interest in his work where he is only allowed to propose schemes on paper, with but very faint hopes of those schemes ever being realized, or even appreciated.

Proposed watercourse at Walalgode.

A few days ago I inspected a watercourse at Walalgode in Colonna corle, where I think the Government are at once bound to render assistance to the people, and possibly may be induced to do, as they possess a large amount of the lands to be watered.

The tract of fields of Walalgode is the finest tract I have seen in the district, about 200 amonams in extent, of which 35 amonams belong to the Crown. They are watered by a channel led from a stream called the Hulanda Oya, and which comes down from Ulindnawe under Gongalle. The channel is in excellent order and is about four miles long, but the dam is merely temporary every year, and is so constantly washed away by floods in the stream, that the inhabitants disheartened after two or three attempts generally gave it up, and entire failures of crops are the result.

I propose to erect a permanent masonry dam, six feet above the bed of the stream, over which the surplus waters would fall, with a small sluice in it to allow of the silt, &c., being periodically carried off. Its length would be about 90 feet, and the whole structure would not contain more than 550 cubic yards of masonry. This should be erected anywhere for 1*l.* a cubic yard, and here stone of good quality abounds, while lime can be procured from the same quarry that Mr. Harrison used for Ooroobokke, situated up this very stream at about 2½ miles distant. The cost therefore would probably be about 550*l.*

Now for the return. The Government could, if it liked, sell its 35 amonams of land for about 350*l.* and would ever after obtain the quarter tax upon it, which would be equal to about 25 amonams or 15*l.* a year.

Or it could lease out its lands for one-fifth of the produce every year, receiving thereby about 70 amonams or 42*l.* a year.

The $\frac{1}{14}$ tax due on the remaining 165 amonams of land would be about 117 amonams or 70*l.* a year.

The average annual tax derived from the Crown lands in this tract for the last four years has been 1*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* and from the private lands 5*l.* 3*s.* 4½*d.* owing entirely to failures by drought, and the reluctance of the people to cultivate.

It is quite clear, therefore, that if this dam is executed by Government at a cost of even 700*l.* it would receive over 10 per cent. for its money from the private lands alone, but I propose to take one-quarter according to the usual custom from the private lands till the cost, deducting the share the Government should incur for its own lands, be repaid.

Navigation of Kalu Ganga.

A proposal has lately been made by a Mr. Middleton to navigate the Kaluganga by steam. His proposal is to be found in the Appendix. It is likely to receive the ready assent and support of the planting community, if only as an experiment, but I think the river should be inspected and reported upon, before cold water be thrown on this proposal. An examination survey and report was once made by Mr. Dalton, but his estimate was so enormous that the idea of such improvements could not be otherwise than abandoned at once. What we want now is an estimate to remove any positive obstacles, and to clear the banks of such overhanging boughs, &c. as would interfere with the funnel of a steamer.

I should be glad to be authorized to inspect the river in company with Mr. Middleton.

Bridge over Kuruganga.

If any expenditure here is needed, and the experiment likely to succeed, I would recommend the postponement of the intended bridge over the Kuruganga on the Colombo road, which is estimated to cost about 4,000*l.*

This river is always passable in the boat, and though it rapidly floods, it as rapidly subsides, and if the river navigation were improved, the traffic on this road would be too trifling to justify the erection of the bridge.

Bridge at Kahawatte over Wey Ganga.

But I must beg here urgently to press the immediate erection of a bridge on the Rakwane road over the Wey Ganga at Kahawatte. The landed interests at stake here in the estates at Rakwane can be judged of best by an inspection of the Map, No. 1, of that coffee district.

Public Works Department.

I do not think the bridge would cost over 1,800*l.*, and I would urge the desirability of building the abutments this year on a supplementary vote. The public works department in this district has at present no head, but is carried on by Mr. Weloopulle. The difficulty in filling it up I believe arises from the lowness of the salary, 200*l.* a year, and I respectfully submit it is impossible to expect to get a man competent to look after the roads and other public works in so large and growing a district on such miserable pay.

Education.

Education is at a stand-still in the district from want of a school-room. The average attendance for 1864 was 33 against 38 on the lists, and the building we now hire will not hold that number comfortably. It is essential if we desire to improve the school, and to retain the excellent master we have, to erect a suitable school-house, or to purchase a house on the hill near the assistant agent's, which might answer for the purpose.

Kandyan marriage law.

I am not satisfied with the progress of the people under the Kandyan marriage ordinance. Only 274 marriages were registered last year. I will endeavour more fully to explain to the people on every occasion the result of non-compliance with its measures, but I am inclined to think there are too few

registrars, and that the people run the risk of dispensing with the provisions of the ordinance rather than take the long journeys sometimes necessary to reach the registrars. A return of its operation since its passing in 1860, will be found in the Appendix. CEYLON.

I annex a return of the establishments in the public offices as they exist at present under the sanctioned increases.

It will be quite impossible to carry on the assistant agent's office much longer without an extra clerk, who should receive 50*l.* a year, and a competent native writer who, instead of being paid as now 9*l.*, should get 30*l.* a year. Assistant Agent's office.

To arrange this I would propose that six out of the 10 messengers allotted to the Rattemahatmeya be discontinued from this establishment, and be provided for on the provisional estimates of the fiscal.

The gaoler, who is here called a turnkey, has very often 70 prisoners in his charge. He keeps all the gaol books, and has a general supervision over the works executed by the prisoners. He is much underpaid and ought to receive at least 36*l.* per year as in Batticoloa. Fiscals.

Under the head of constable and process server, a saving of 6*l.* a year is now being effected, as a process server only is employed on 12*l.* a year, and I propose that 5*l.* be added to the pay of the Singhalese translator. Courts.

I have before remarked that the post holder at Ratnapoora is under-paid. He should receive 36*l.* Post office.

I must before concluding this report, ask attention to a species of encroachment on the Crown domain which is in this district extensively carried on—gemming in Crown lands. It appears to be a very profitable occupation and people are now employed at it all over the district. Gemming.

We are perfectly powerless to prevent it, and in many instances it is winked at by the headmen who receive a share and by the landed proprietors who claim Crown forests as part of their nindegamas, and get one-quarter of the gems found.

A valuable gemming ground close to Ratnapoora was declared Crown property by the Temple Lands Commissioner in 1863. A moorman about that time purchased it from some natives who had claimed it as temple property, and it is said he cleared from it in gems some thousands of pounds. The Crown has claimed it from him, and as Mr. Power was favourable to his claim the case was instituted in the Colombo court where it has pended now for over a year. I think this much to be regretted, and that the Queen's advocate should be urged to hurry on the case. If the Crown gains the case, the land will sell for an incredibly high price, and I have no doubt that we shall eventually get judgment in our favour.

I see only one means of deriving some fair share of the profits now daily made by private individuals on Crown lands—the issuing licences for gemming. I would issue them for one year, and would charge for every plot of ground a sum of 5*l.* for 20 square yards.

It will then become necessary rigidly to prosecute for trespass every one found gemming without a licence.

In many parts of the district where the soil is known to be favourable for the purpose, the land would sell at very high prices, if surveyed in small lots of a chain square, but this is impracticable for want of surveyors, and I am unable to see why private persons should be allowed to make large fortunes (for natives) out of Crown lands without the Crown as landlords receiving some share or compensation.

The health of the district generally has been good. I annex a return of cases treated in the pauper hospital. Health.

By a comparison, however, with 1862 and 1863, the fever admissions have much increased. They numbered 78, while in neither of those years did they exceed 32.

I have now touched on all matters that occur to me as worthy of remark, and I must in conclusion apologize for the imperfect way in which I have noticed those subjects, though I hope I may be allowed to plead as some excuse my short residence in the district.

(Signed) J. W. BIRCH, A.G.A.

Ratnapoora Cutcherry, March 30, 1865.

NORTHERN PROVINCE.

ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1864.

Adverting to explanations stated last year, I give this in two tables.

Actual gross receipts within the year. Revenue.

1853	-	33,296	1859	-	92,599
1854	-	32,180	1860	-	82,075
1855	-	50,636	1861	-	46,947
1856	-	35,612	1862	-	47,580
1857	-	57,466	1863	-	107,340
1858	-	65,199	1864	-	48,148

The real ordinary revenue of the province for the year.

1853	-	32,732	1859	-	44,005
1854	-	31,399	1860	-	42,723
1855	-	38,060	1861	-	44,605
1856	-	34,454	1862	-	47,404
1857	-	36,733	1863	-	50,697
1858	-	38,875	1864	-	44,377

As will be shown subsequently, in a statement of the amounts of each head of revenue, there was a decrease of 6,268*l.* under Grain tythes consequent on a bad season, and of 1,788*l.* under Customs, which was the consequence solely of the receipt for 1863 having been unprecedentally large.

CEYLON.

As in last year, and in order to show the actual contributions of the people to public objects, I give the following statement of the real ordinary revenue and of the receipts from the Thoroughfares ordinance :—

—	Real ordinary Revenue.	Receipts under the Thoroughfares Ordinance.	Total.
1859 - - -	44,005	*6,744	50,749
1860 - - -	42,723	6,900	49,623
1861 - - -	44,605	7,070	51,675
1862 - - -	47,404	7,359	54,763
1863 - - -	50,697	7,377	58,074
1864 - - -	44,377	7,387	51,764

* The receipts for 1858 were 4,250*l*. In this year the rates were raised.

The number of persons who paid in each district in each year :—

—	Jaffna.	Manaar.	Mullotioor.	Anadrajapoora.	Total.
1859 - - -	54,912	6,320	1,778	11,175	74,185
1860 - - -	55,992	6,284	1,835	11,324	75,435
1861 - - -	57,684	6,640	1,810	11,422	77,556
1862 - - -	57,816	6,900	1,867	11,573	78,156
1863 - - -	54,672	7,342	1,920	11,714	75,648
1864 - - -	55,416	7,178	2,205	10,160	74,959

The sums levied for penalties in the Jaffna district under the ordinance of 1861, were :—

—	For Penalty of 6*d*.	For the Penalty of 1*s*. 8*d*. equal to the original Liability.	Total.
	£	£	£
1862 - - -	124	114	238
1863 - - -	81	333	414
1864 - - -	118	453	571

The increase to the total receipts from this source is regarded with unmixed regret, and much trouble has been taken to secure regularity of payment ; the failure is mainly to be attributed to the unsatisfactory conduct of the division officers.

The office is not at all in request, and in many instances is imposed by me upon headmen from inability to find any one willing to accept it.

They are paid 12½ per cent. on all recovered without resort to the courts.

There will however be some improvement in this respect in 1865.

I extend the condensed abstract given last year of the particulars of the receipts in the years 1859, 1863, and 1864 to show the particulars for each district.

	1859.	1863.	1864.
Jaffna.			
Customs - - - -	10,910	13,214	11,162
Grain - - - -	12,333	13,203	10,125
Salt monopoly - - -	2,881	3,765	5,594
Thoroughfares Ordinance - -	4,576	5,017	5,189
Stamps - - - -	2,760	3,003	3,047
Arrack - - - -	1,595	2,808	2,218
Tolls - - - -	507	672	801
Judicial receipts - - -	513	333	447
Postage - - - -	269	381	433
Chanks - - - { live / dead }	322	84 / 486	120 / 334
Timber - - - -	116	203	312
Carriers - - - -	296	364	310
Crown lands sold - - -	0	122	298
All other miscellaneous receipts -	344	221	421
	37,422	43,876	40,811

	1859.	1863.	1864.
Manaar.			
Customs	921	1,112	1,376
Grain	3,008	2,399	1,120
Arrack	876	1,236	1,028
Salt monopoly	1,228	1,109	878
Thoroughfares Ordinance	711	826	807
Stamps	203	269	294
Tolls	293	256	233
Timber	27	86	175
Judicial receipts	45	38	69
Postage	52	69	47
Chanks live	30	4	28
„ dead	0	0	0
Carriers	18	20	21
All other miscellaneous receipts	112	155	160
	7,524	7,579	6,236
Mullatioor.			
Grain	750	720	649
Timber	602	428	525
Salt monopoly	406	402	447
Thoroughfares Ordinance	200	216	248
Arrack	0	335	123
Stamps	64	74	71
Judicial receipts	26	13	21
Carriers	1	21	17
Postage	11	11	11
Tolls	1	1	0
All other miscellaneous receipts	124	91	107
	2,185	2,312	2,219
Anaradhapoora.			
Thoroughfares ordinance	1,257	1,318	1,143
Grain	1,907	2,486	646
Crown lands sold	0	10	180
Arrack	40	180	155
Stamps	31	97	129
Timber	226	38	64
Postage	33	45	42
Judicial receipts	55	39	33
Carriers	11	12	17
All other miscellaneous receipts	58	82	89
	3,618	4,307	2,498
The Province.			
Grain	17,998	18,808	12,540
Customs	11,831	14,326	12,538
Thoroughfares ordinance	6,744	7,377	7,387
Salt monopoly	4,515	5,276	6,919
Stamps	3,058	3,443	3,541
Arrack	2,511	4,559	3,524
Timber	971	755	1,076
Tolls	801	929	1,034
Judicial receipts	639	423	570
Postage	365	506	533
Chanks, live	352	88	148
„ dead		486	334
Crown lands sold	0	132	478
Carriers	326	417	365
All other miscellaneous receipts	638	549	777
Total	50,749	58,074	51,764

Remarks on the foregoing.

Grain.

I repeat, as to the form, the statements given last year.

REVENUE of each DISTRICT and of the PROVINCE.

—	Jaffna.	Manaar.	Mullo.	Anarad.	Total.
1859 - - -	12,336	3,006	745	1,913	18,000
1860 - - -	10,598	1,817	667	1,653	14,735
1861 - - -	11,935	1,968	819	2,051	16,773
1862 - - -	12,291	2,206	779	1,476	16,752
1863 - - -	13,203	2,399	721	2,485	18,808
1864 - - -	10,1 5	1,120	649	646	12,540

Thus of the whole decrease in 1864 as compared with 1863—

3,078	was in the	Jaffna District.
1,279	„	Manaar District.
72	„	Mullativoe District.
1,839	„	Anaradhapoora District.

Part of the revenue of Anaradhapoora (commutation) was, however, left uncollected, because of the failure of the crops, and will be recovered in 1865, in accordance with the practice which has prevailed as to the particular district ever since the first introduction of the commutation system, and which is indispensable to its continuously successful working.

GRAIN PRODUCE AND IMPORT.

—	Produce Bushels.	Import Bushels.	Total Bushels.
	Jaffna.		
1859 - - -	1,294,369	605,857	1,900,226
1860 - - -	1,233,232	551,016	1,784,248
1861 - - -	1,239,460	603,681	1,843,141
1862 - - -	1,230,157	621,650	1,851,807
1863 - - -	1,155,784	805,703	2,061,487
1864 - - -	888,071	711,703	1,599,744
	Manaar.		
1859 - - -	330,193	14,632	344,825
1860 - - -	233,689	19,550	253,239
1861 - - -	250,216	21,914	272,130
1862 - - -	255,489	33,572	289,061
1863 - - -	250,540	37,824	288,364
1864 - - -	105,004	92,048	197,052
	Mulletivoe.		
1859 - - -	89,392	—	89,392
1860 - - -	83,707	—	83,707
1861 - - -	102,885	—	102,885
1862 - - -	92,376	—	92,376
1863 - - -	72,257	—	72,257
1864 - - -	57,344	—	57,344
	The Province (exclusive of Newerakalawia).		
1859 - - -	1,713,954	625,782	2,339,736
1860 - - -	1,550,628	570,958	2,121,586
1861 - - -	1,592,561	628,255	2,220,816
1862 - - -	1,578,022	664,072	2,242,094
1863 - - -	1,478,581	849,780	2,328,361
1864 - - -	1,050,419	803,751	1,854,170

In these statements all descriptions of dry grain are included, and each bushel of rice is reckoned as two of paddy. I have still not the means of making up like amounts for Newerkalawia.

The particulars of the grain (paddy and dry grain) in the Jaffna district are as follows :—

—	Paddy.	Dry Grain.	Total.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1859 - - -	857,447	436,922	1,294,369
1860 - - -	881,522	355,710	1,233,232
1861 - - -	912,343	327,117	1,239,460
1862 - - -	884,965	345,192	1,230,157
1863 - - -	816,440	339,344	1,155,784
1864 - - -	591,731	296,340	888,071

The import of rice only in the same district during this period was as follows:—

1859 - - - -	26,866
1860 - - - -	31,816
1861 - - - -	43,960
1862 - - - -	62,000
1863 - - - -	77,467
1864 - - - -	58,168

Remarks have been made in the past two years on the increasing proportion of the import of rice to that of paddy.

There was a slight check to this in 1864, the proportion having been equal to only about 16 per cent. of the whole grain imported, while in 1863 it was 19 per cent. It is, however, still confidently expected that the proportion will continue to increase.

The great increase in the import at Manaar was owing to the inferiority of the local crops, and to the demand by the increased number of immigrant coolies.

Customs.

The decrease shown under this head is attributable solely to the fact of the receipts for 1863 having been unprecedentedly large; for three years the receipts were as follows:—

1862 - - - -	£11,360
1863 - - - -	14,326
1864 - - - -	12,538

Salt Monopoly.

The real revenue in each district other than from sales for export from the Province was as follows:—

—	Jaffna.	Manaar.	The Vanny.	Total.
1859 - - -	3,610	1,228	406	5,244
1890 - - -	4,041	945	428	5,414
1861 - - -	4,100	934	317	5,351
1862 - - -	4,554	1,020	328	5,902
1863 - - -	4,601	1,109	402	6,111
1864 - - -	4,758	878	447	6,083

Stamps.

The revenue in each district was as follows:—

—	Jaffna.	Manaar.	The Vanny.	Newera-kalavia.	Total.
1859 - - -	2,760	203	64	31	3,058
1860 - - -	2,842	175	61	62	3,140
1861 - - -	2,945	215	57	76	3,293
1862 - - -	2,597	276	63	126	3,062
1863 - - -	3,003	269	74	97	3,443
1864 - - -	3,047	294	71	129	3,541

Arrack.

The revenue in each district was as follows:—

——	Jaffna.	Manaar.	Mulla.	Newera-kalavia.	Total.
1859 - - -	1,595	876	—	40	2,511
1860 - - -	2,474	827	—	109	3,410
1861 - - -	2,777	699	—	158	3,634
1862 - - -	3,053	977	163	145	4,338
1863 - - -	2,808	1,236	335	180	4,559
1864 - - -	2,218	1,028	123	155	3,524

In the years of Aumanie management at Jaffna (1862–63 and 1863–64) the amounts stated are the net amounts after deducting the expenses of management, otherwise there would not be any comparison with the years of rent.

Timber.

Till within the last two or three years revenue from this source seemed to be regarded as the main consideration.

Latterly conservation of the forests and even of the "woods" has got to be recognized as the primary consideration, partly as the effect of circumstances occurring within the Island, which have brought the subject prominently into notice, and partly in connexion with the publication of very important facts connected with it on the continent of India, including that of the absolute failure of the supply of firewood for domestic purposes in some localities.

The increase in the revenue, therefore, is not due to any increase in the number of licences given and quantity of timber cut, but to increase in the rates of valuation for duty and of the duty itself. The rate of duty was raised from the month of August 1864 from one-tenth to one-fourth, and the rates of valuation have been raised nearly 50 per cent.

The quantities of the most valuable descriptions of trees for which duty was paid and licences given in 1863 and 1864 were as follows:—

——	1863.	1864.
Ebony - - - - -	3,320	6,942*
Pālai (the iron wood of the north) -	15,605	12,057
Satin - - - - -	2,975	5,066†
Samandalai (Homanhul) - - -	22	1,597
Yavaranai (Millele) - - -	551	90
Tambane - - - - -	1,008	289
Totals, exclusive of ebony - -	20,161	19,099

* N.B.—Not timber, but ornamental wood. † To be used as timber.

Crown Lands.

The sales consisted of 45 small lots in 14 different localities. It is to be remembered that the only culturable Crown land in the peninsula of Jaffna, excepting in the eastern part of it, is in small lots mixed up with private property. Some more of these small lots will from time to time be purchased.

There is more land, and in larger lots, in the eastern part of the peninsula, but the soil is so sandy and poor that it is not worth the upset price and charges, and it will not be sold unless some modification of these charges be made.

Dead Chanks.

In last year's report, besides giving a full explanation of the circumstances under which these shells were found and collected, I showed that in the 23 years from 1841 to 1863, both inclusive, there had been 38,196,052 chanks collected, which were valued at 46,111*l.*, and paid a royalty of 4,988*l.*, and that the rate of the royalty, till then one-tenth, had been in 1862 raised to one-fifth.

The quantity, value, and royalty in the last year of the one-tenth rate, and in each year since the alteration to one-fifth, have been as follows:—

——	Quantity.	Value.	Royalty.	——
		£	£	
1861 - -	3,470,701	5,454	552	At one-tenth.
1862 - -	1,657,251	2,458	391	Half the year at one-tenth, and half at one-fifth.
1863 - -	1,864,301	2,426	486	At one-fifth.
1864 - -	1,294,600	1,690	334	

Trade.

The total value of this for the last six years has been as follows:—

1859	340,748
1860	338,803
1861	318,905
1862	319,680
1863	417,885
1864	415,733

The totals and averages for three periods of six years each have been as follows:—

——	Totals.	Averages.
1847 to 1852	1,115,636	185,939
1853 to 1858	1,399,100	233,183
1859 to 1864	2,151,754	358,742

The peculiar garden cultivation of the district of Jaffna by irrigation from wells has frequently been noticed; it was so particularly by Sir H. Ward in his Minute on this Province. The greater part of this cultivation is of different kinds of millets for local consumption, but it furnishes some articles for export, of which the chief is chillies. I am induced, therefore, to notice the increased export of this article as a matter of interest to the district which has so few exportable commodities.

The value of the quantities exported in two periods of six years each were as follows:—

1853	2,110	1859	2,194
1854	2,952	1860	4,921
1855	2,754	1861	5,171
1856	1,871	1862	4,214
1857	2,879	1863	5,051
1858	2,272	1864	5,525
Total	14,838	Total	27,076
Average	2,473	Average	4,512

The amount of this export for the last five years has, therefore, been about equivalent to the payments on account of the Thoroughfares Ordinance.

Public Health.

Cholera was introduced into the Jaffna and Manaar districts simultaneously early in the year, and, as usual, it made its way by the road followed by the immigrants into the Newerakalawia district. The western and northern portions of the Vanny district were also infected from the adjoining districts of Manaar and Jaffna, but the disease did not extend much to the eastward of the Central road.

The following is a table of the reports rendered:—

MEMORANDUM of CASES of CHOLERA in each District in 1864.

——	Number of Cases.	Number of Deaths.
Jaffna	1,371	828
Manaar	355	193
Mullativoe	32	28
Newerakalawia	55	41
Total	1,813	1,090

CASES among the IMMIGRANT COOLIES not included in the above.

——	Cases.	Deaths.
Manaar	182	126
Newerakalawia	39	32
Total	221	158

CEYLON.

In the Jaffna district small-pox continued from the preceding year (having been introduced in October 1863) till November. The cases admitted to hospital were 220 in number, the deaths seven. These cases occurred in 43 villages.

A statement submitted by me in last year's report showed that the average number of persons vaccinated in the Jaffna district from 1838 to 1862 was 7,488, and the number in 1863, 10,651.

The number for 1864 was 12,111.

My statements are imperfect as to the other districts. I will have them completed

Health of Cattle.

In the Jaffna district this was generally good, excepting in the two divisions of the peninsula to the east of Jaffna, *and* as regards sheep only, the Vaddemoratche (or Point Pedro) division.

The number of deaths of cattle reported was 2,359 ; the number of deaths of sheep, 4,559.

There was not any serious disease in the other districts.

Crime.

I continue the statement as to serious crime given in last year's report :—

	Number of serious Cases.	Number of Persons tried in those Cases.
12 years ending 1831 - -	260	886
12 „ „ 1843 - -	225	649
12 „ „ 1855 - -	100	309
9 „ „ 1864 - -	99	212

Memorandum of the number of convicted prisoners committed to the gaol of Jaffna in each year from 1860 to 1864 from each police court, exclusive of persons committed in default of payment of penalties imposed under the Thoroughfares Ordinance :—

	Jaffna.	Mallagam.	Sava-gaserry.	Point Pedro.	Kayts.	Total.
1860 - - - - -	87	3	49	51	8	198
1861 - - - - -	57	70	48	49	8	232
1862 - - - - -	76	86	42	42	15	261
1863 - - - - -	78	148	29	8	6	269
1864 - - - - -	63	97	84	22	16	282
No. of males returned in the lists for 1864 as liable to satisfy the requirements of the Thoroughfares Ordinance	17,545	13,058	14,126	9,856	5,666	60,251

N.B. :—

	Jaffna and Mallagam.	Savagaserry, Point Pedro, and Kayts.	Total.
1860 - - - - -	90	108	198
1861 - - - - -	127	105	232
1862 - - - - -	162	99	261
1863 - - - - -	226	43	269
1864 - - - - -	160	122	282
No. of males returned in the lists for 1864 as liable to satisfy the requirements of the Thoroughfares Ordinance	30,603	29,648	60,251

It is to be regretted, I think, that some digest is not made of the returns of business done in the courts which are published monthly. Without something of the kind to apply the information afforded by returns of the kind they are of very little interest or value.

Looking into a return recently published, I found that while the average of "dismissals" of cases in the police courts for the whole Island was about 17¼ per cent. of the whole cases, for the Jaffna district it was 33½; it would be interesting to know the cause of this great difference.

In Indian returns, which I from time to time see, I observe that such digests as referred to are commonly carried out into great detail.

Agents' and Assistant Agents' Circuits.

The assistant agents made their circuits as usual.

I made a very complete circuit of the province, with the exception of not visiting the station of Manaar, where cholera was prevailing when I was in its neighbourhood. So many people travel with me that I do not consider it to be justifiable to take them to places actually infected with cholera, unless some strong reason requires my presence there. There was no such reason at the time for my visiting the station of Manaar. Cholera was at the same time in several parts of the district, but I was able to visit each subdivision of it without going into villages actually infected.

Cooly Immigration.

This service has a peculiar interest for me because, as the consequence of the effective organization of it by the assistant agent, and the efficient management of the superintendent, Mr. Riedy, so much of great value to important interests is realized in so quiet and unobtrusive a manner. There were some variations during the year, but in December there were three vessels employed of from 172 to 196, and averaging 186 tons each.

The total arrivals and departures in 1863 and 1864 were as follows:—

	1863.		1864.	
	Arrivals.	Departures.	Arrivals.	Departures.
Men - - - -	28,712	20,842	42,028	23,420
Women - - - -	7,833	4,391	10,776	4,661
Children - - -	1,672	1,328	1,610	1,575
	38,217	26,561	54,414	29,656
	—	38,217	—	54,414
Total conveyed to and fro -	—	64,778	—	84,070

The receipts from these persons were 1,998*l.* for 1864.

The entire cost of the service, 3,554*l.*

I remarked in my report of last year as to the maddams for the accommodation of these people, that several of them were in very bad order. There are in all on the line now followed by the coolies seven of such maddams in the Manaar district, and five in Newerekalawia. The assistant agent of Manaar reports as to those in that district "there is scarcely a shed now habitable; the shed erected " at Manaar in April last fell down in October; the sheds at Oylencolom, Murungen, and Kumben- " saindecolom are all in a more or less dangerous state. Tallale is very little better, and the new " shed at Pullyaddy Erakkum has tumbled down." This has been specially brought to the notice of Government.

The assistant agent also notices the want of hospital accommodation at the sheds in these terms:—

"The recommendations made by the Government agent, and those subsequently made by Dr. Charsley in 1862, regarding hospital accommodations and attendance on the line of road, have not been carried out, and much inconvenience is felt in consequence."

In 1862 the matter was taken entirely out of the Government agent's hands.

Writs of Execution against Property.

I was particularly induced to notice this matter last year in illustration of the improved working of the fiscal's office, consequent on the appointment of a distinct deputy fiscal, Mr. Pargiter. The efficient working of the fiscal's office is most important to the efficient action of the courts.

I repeat the table given last year, adding the account for 1864:—

	Amount for which Writ has been issued.	Amount levied by sale.	Amount levied without sale.	Amount reported to Court as settled between parties.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1856 - -	10,610	2,484	179	700	3,363
1857 - -	8,685	2,331	169	1,047	3,547
1858 - -	6,740	2,424	377	2,000	4,801
1859 - -	7,334	1,914	232	1,130	3,276
1860 - -	6,895	3,050	524	1,033	4,607
1861 - -	7,179	2,715	291	681	3,687
1862 - -	12,075	2,870	271	1,092	4,233
1863 - -	13,396	4,242	171	1,432	5,845
1864 - -	10,943	5,360	141	1,998	7,499

CEYLON.

Personal Process.

In connexion with the above, to show the extent of business done by this office, I gave last year a statement of the total number of such process issued to it in each year from 1837 to 1863, which showed that the average from 1837 to 1862 was 39,237, and the number for 1863, 57,588. The number for 1864 was 59,313.

Weavers, condition of.

In my report for 1863 I mentioned that these persons were mainly dependent on imported thread for the prosecution of their occupations, and I showed the great falling off in the quantity of this.

The headmen state in their accounts for the annual returns the number of persons heretofore usually engaged in weaving as 688.

The import of thread has been in—

	cwts.	£
1860	410	2,829
1861	271	1,603
1862	118	1,065
1863	50	952
1864	64	1,283

There was, therefore, a slight improvement in 1864.

In this connexion it occurs to me to give the following account of the trade of Jaffna in cotton cloths in 1864·—

	Value.
	£
Import from beyond sea	6,500
Import coastwise (chiefly from Colombo)	38,938
Export (wholly coastwise).	
Cloth of Jaffna manufacture	3,085
Imported cloth, dyed and painted by hand at Jaffna	5,883

N.B.—Considerable quantities are also carried out of the district by land, particularly along the Central road.

Public Works.

I am deterred by prudential considerations from noticing this subject.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Export of Elephants.

The number was 194, value 4,592*l.*; but the asssistant agent of Manaar notices that many of the animals were caught in the Batticaloa district, so all the sum cannot be set down to the credit of the people of Manaar as part of their resources for the year. I shall endeavour to have the account kept in future to distinguish between elephants caught by people of the northern province and others.

Destruction of Wild Beasts.

The numbers for which rewards were paid, 5*s.* for a chetah and 5*s.* for a bear, were as follows:—

	Chetahs.	Bears.
Jaffna	23	24
Manaar	29	11
Mullativoe	53	39
Newerakalawia	74	55
Total	179	129
Totals from 1854, inclusive :—		
Jaffna	161	268
Manaar	36	121
Mullativoe	191	373
Newerakalawia	264	376
Total	652	1,138

Foreign Trees, introduction of.

The mahogany. The following is an extract from a report lately made to a series of questions on "acclimatisation":—

"The mahogany was first introduced in ward cases from the botanic garden Calcutta in September 1844. The trees in soil such as referred to have grown more rapidly than the indigenous Margosa; the largest now is 1ft. 10½in. in diameter at four feet from the ground, and 58 feet in height. "Sandy loam resting upon Madrapore."

"There are a few score of these scattered about of different ages, some having been reared from seed subsequent to the date stated; one of the largest trees flowered slightly last year, but no pods formed.

"It is to be regretted, I think, that extensive experiments with plants of this tree have not been made in the richer soils of the forest districts of the province. There has always been difficulty in obtainidg seed, and it is with reference to their yielding a supply of seeds that I attach value to the few trees in the peninsula of Jaffna."

Grafted Mangoes.

It might be thought that this was a trivial subject to notice, but I observed some years ago in a detailed official report of the Ganges canal that the Government of India had caused gardens for the dissemination of such plants to be formed at different places along its course. I am therefore induced to mention that since 1853 513 plants have been sold from the Kutcherry garden. The parent plants were obtained from the botanic garden at Madras, having been introduced into it from Bombay.

I append some extracts from the report of the assistant agent of Manaar as to—

Public works.
Irrigation works.
The Manaar causeway.
The bridging of the Chettycolomaar.
The "terrible disease" existing in the Manaar and other districts.

Reports have not been received from Anaradhapoora or Mulativoe.

(Signed) P. A. DYKE,
Government Agent.

Jaffna Kutcherry, July 1865.

EXTRACTS REFERRED TO.

Public Works.

The system in which building works are carried on in this district appears to me to be most unsatisfactory. They are generally commenced at the worst season of the year, and hurried through to completion in two or three months, and consequently fall to pieces shortly after. I need only point to the cooly sheds and the new buildings at the Dorie as proofs of this.

The road works are also commenced too late in the year, and carried on in general during the worst season of the year for such works.

The contract system, as far as this district is concerned, has proved a complete failure, not a single contract building having been properly put up.

Irrigation Works, necessity for.

The failure to such an extent of the kalapagam crop of 1864, and the total failure again this year of the maritime pattoo crop, which have caused such serious loss to the farmers, and so much suffering to the population in general, induce me to again bring to notice the advisability of adopting some system of irrigation in the maritime pattoos of the district, which will render the people in some measure independent of the fall of rain in the district itself, by enabling them to make use of water now running to waste into the sea.

A body of water is continually flowing through the district to the sea by the Arineaar which would be sufficient for the irrigation of the whole Northern province if it could be made use of. I believe that by a system of channels leading from the river above the Tekum into the Manlotte and Moselly pattoos a sufficient supply of water might be obtained throughout the year, and a large tract of land kept constantly under cultivation.

In 1858 I made a thorough inspection of the Giant's tank, and the old channel leading from the river at the Tekum into the Giant's tank, and I was convinced that from what I then saw that with a comparatively speaking small expenditure a system as proposed might be carried out. Such a plan would not render necessary the restoration of the Giant's tank, indeed I doubt very much if the restoration of the tank would be a benefit to the district.

What is required is merely to keep up a supply of water in the small tanks, and as the river is very often full even during the height of the dry season when all the country in the neighbourhood is parched and dry, I think this could be managed by leading the water by one large channel from the river to the middle of what was the Giant's tank, from which it could be carried by small channels to the different tanks, provision being made to carry off the surplus water to the sea by the extension of the main channel to the low ground. I am told that even now water which flows into the Giant's tank by the old channel is carried to some tanks in the Nanatan west pattoos through what is called the Mukewa Morrippoo, and that if the old channel were properly deepened and cleared water sufficient for all the tanks would flow by it to the Giant's tank.

If it were found necessary to dig the channel so deep as to take it below the level of the upper tanks, a large reservoir might be sunk in the bed of the Giant's tank and the water pumped up into the small channels by means of a steam engine, but I believe that there would not be any necessity for making the channel so deep.

CEYLON.

A proper survey of the country would of course have to be made before any final decision could be come to on the subject.

During the last three months a body of water has been running to waste in the sea, a portion of which, if it could only have been directed to the small tanks, would in all probability have saved the Kalapogam crop now lost, the money value of which would have sufficed, in my opinion, to have carried out such a work as proposed four times over.

Manaar Causeway.

The correspondence that passed between the Government and the Government agent regarding the proposed causeway to connect Manaar with the mainland in 1860 appears to have been forgotten.

It was admitted by the late Governor Sir Charles MacCarthy and the Executive Council that the money which had been collected at the ferry since its institution ought to have been spent in carrying out the proposed work according to the condition on which the ferry was established. With this admission and the promise that the civil engineer would be directed to examine the ground and frame an estimate, the matter seems to have rested, and the collections from 1860 up to the present time have, like all the previous collections, been taken to the general revenue.

It was shown by the Government agent that if the collections had been allowed to accumulate at interest, there would have been available at the end of 1860 a sum of 8,237*l.*

The estimated cost of the work amounted to 17,000*l.*, and according to the calculation made by the Government agent this sum would have accumulated in four years from this time if the money had not been taken to the general revenue. I believe myself that the estimate is exceedingly high, and that all that is required could be done for very much less.

As a step towards the attainment of the object for which the ferry toll was instituted, I beg to propose, on behalf of the people of Manaar, that the taking of any further collection to the general revenue be discontinued, and that the money be lodged in the Oriental Bank in the name of the Government agent on account of the Manaar causeway; that an estimate be framed of the probable cost of making such a causeway, and that a sum equal to one-quarter of the total amount already collected be annually voted for four years from the general revenue, to be also deposited in the bank, which with the probable collections at the ferry will, I think, suffice to carry out the work at the end of four years from this date.

Chettycolomaar, bridging of.

The bridging of the Chettycolomaar where it crosses the Manaar Mathavatchy road, which I was led to believe would have been done in connexion with other works undertaken on account of the immigrant coolies, has not yet been provided for.

Terrible Disease, existence of, in Manaar and other Districts.

A matter to which I think it my duty to invite most serious attention is the gradual depopulation of the district, especially of the Vanny pattoos.

The people themselves attribute this to the periodical outbreaks of sickness introduced by the immigrant coolies.

There is no doubt that the immigration from the coast has been on the whole, and was more especially at the commencement, a most serious evil to the district, but there exists among the natives themselves a terrible disease, hitherto supposed to be of a syphilitic nature, from which no man, woman, or child in the Vanny seems to be entirely free, and which would, I believe, of itself have led though more slowly to the same result.

The disease is by no means confined to this district; I have, however, never seen such dreadful instances of it as have come under my observation during the last two circuits in the Vanny, nor was I aware till lately how tainted the whole population of the Vanny are with it.

I have seen traces of it in the Hambantoth district. It prevails to a great extent in the Ten Moratchy and Patchelapallo divisions of Jaffna, and is as bad in the Mulletivoo district as in this.

Mr. Northmore reported its existence and the ravages caused by it in the Anaradhapoora district when assistant agent there, and called the special attention of Government to the subject; and I have been lately informed that a medical gentlemen residing in Bathcaloa, and who has been many years in the island, made a representation to the Government on the subject, and recommended inquiry being made into the cause and nature of the disease in order to the discovery, if possible, of some remedy for it.

In the interest, therefore, of a very great portion of the Island, it appears to me that the matter calls for the most serious consideration of Government.

True extracts.

(Signed) P. A. DYKE.

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCE.

A comprehensive report on the central province is a large subject, embracing, as it does, its general condition, the state of its population, the progress of improvement or otherwise in its agricultural or general resources, the administration of its revenue, condition of the Crown lands with reference to encroachments, means of communication, and the mode of collecting the revenue.

Population.

The returns, I fear, in this respect are very defective, and are in point of fact wholly unreliable.

This subject once engaged the attention of Mr. J. Bailey, when assistant agent of Badulla, who prepared a form of return which he hoped would ensure greater accuracy ; but Mr. Hume in speaking of these returns, says, " though they are furnished monthly, they are really nominal, being (as he believes) a " mere compilation from preceding one, with a few figures altered here and there to give them an " air of accuracy."

Mr. Sharpe of Matelle says, " the population of the district is, I believe, 49,000, there being no means of obtaining an accurate census," while Mr. Brodie, when assistant Government agent of Matelle in 1855, gave the return as 21,355.

A table of the population, however, is appended.

Agriculture.

There is no increase of Paddy land cultivation, nor can I see that amongst the Kandyeas there is any desire to increase or improve their agricultural resources ; the cultivation of the lowlands they keep to themselves, but in the case of their highlands they either sell them or let them to Malabars and low-country Singhalese, which will, I fear, lead to the ultimate alienotion and loss to them of all their appurtenant Chenas.

The irrigation ordinance has not, unfortunately, been brought into operation in any part of Kandy proper, as Mr. Braybrooke felt that he had no time to attend to it ; and in those parts of the province where it has been introduced, the measure to work successfully has been found to absorb so much of the assistant agent's time as fully to justify Mr. Braybrooke's decision not to introduce it before. However, on a late occasion, when in Lower Doombere commuting, I promised to introduce it in one division at a time in consideration of the increased rates of commutation, and without in any way having pledged the Government, I propose to submit to the governor an application for a grant in aid towards the repair of more than one ancient ella, on which the villagers depend for their means of irrigation.

I find the country literally studded with small patches of coffee, on which families of Malabars, are located. In some instances these lots have been sold to Chetties and Moormen, while in others the Kandyan, giving his land for the sweat of another man's brow, has allowed the Malabar to enter on his Chena to plant it with coffee for a planter's interest of one half. I know many instances of this where no deed has passed, and where the soil owner's right is now questioned by the Tamil planter, and the Kandyan has either to give up his right or embroil himself in an expensive lawsuit. The fact of these Tamil families settling in this manner will sooner or later alter the character of the Kandyan people, and I shall not be surprised if they eventually become the dominant race of the two.

The high price of native coffee need be no matter of surprise, for these native coffee gardens to which I refer are planted after the manner adopted on properties belonging to Europeans, and the coffee similarly picked and cured.

Turning from a view of the Kandyan agriculture to that of the European, the contrast is most marked.

New plantations are daily being opened, while old ones are kept up and improved by the application of manure and high cultivation in every sense. In fact, wherever you turn through the length and breadth of the central province you meet the enterprising European with his energies and his capital developing the resources of the Colony.

Condition of the Crown Lands, &c.

There are still frequent encroachments on Crown lands, but the survey department has done good service to the Colony, and enabled the Crown to sell many small lots of land which natives had unlawfully usurped.

The question of Crown lands leads me to the question of Chenas, and the consideration of the Ordinance No. 5 of 1840.

The success which has attended the working of the Temple Lands Commission should weigh with Government in its deliberation upon the not less important question of the settlement of Chenas.

Under the Ordinance No 5 of 1840 all the Chenas in the country may be presumed to be the property of the Crown until the contrary is shown, and in their desire to do their duty by Government, I do not hesitate to say that not unfrequently a grave injustice is done to an individual by the agent and his headmen, and here I will give an illustration of the case.

The order of Government not to allow cultivation of Government Chenas is stringent, and headmen have been warned not to allow this. They do not allow it, and when a man clears a Chena to which his right is not undeniably admitted by the agent and fully recognized by the elders of the village, he is immediately reported to the agent ; the order thereupon goes to sequester their crop, if one is growing, or to stop further clearing pending the inquiry.

This inquiry occupies time and is liable to frequent interruptions, and when the documentary and parole evidence is exhausted, the agent finds it necessary to inspect it before coming to any decision, and marks it " For circuit." Some of these Chenas are often placed in odd corners of the district, and not always accessible to the agent in his tours through the province. Years thus pass by, during which the claims are unsettled. Should the claim be ultimately admitted, what an injustice has been done !

In the settlement of the Chena question there are two considerations which have always pressed themselves prominently before my mind, viz. :—

That you will give to every man a certain knowledge of what land he is possessed of, and secondly, that you will place in the hands of the agent large tracts of land, which he can either reserve for forest or offer for sale, every acre of which, I believe, will be brought into cultivation either by native or European enterprise.

CEYLON.

I should not advocate the sale of all Chenas, but rather reserve some of them, and encourage the growth of forest trees, as the want of timber is becoming a serious consideration in this province.

Forest land in the central province is nearly exhausted, and though between its boundary and Adam's peak there is a large available block, I do not think that Government could hope to realize much by the sale of it, unless prepared to open an expensive line of road into the heart of what is known as the "Wilderness of the peak," which, if made after the land is sold, will in all probability absorb the full proceeds of the sale, whereas with an assurance of assistance towards the construction of the road the sales would go off at enhanced prices.

There appears to be a great deal of work for the survey department yet to do with profit to the country, and to prevent the good work which has been performed by the Temple Lands Commissioners being rendered to a great extent fruitless.

Roads.

This important subject has engaged the attention of his Excellency, who, in the short period that has passed since his arrival in the Colony, has visited, with one exception, every main line of road in the province, as also those made under the grant-in-aid ordinance, and improvement in their upkeep will, I doubt not, be the result.

I here take this opportunity of suggesting for the consideration of Government that it is most desirable to proclaim the portion of the road between the Rajawelle Gap and Galmaloya through Tilderna a principal road. The line is an important one not alone to the European, but to the native interests, and should at once be taken over by the commissioner of roads to the point I have named. From the Galmaloya towards Nugatenne, I believe it is the intention of the proprietors of estates in Medemahanuwere to submit an application for a grant-in-aid road as far as Ooroogalle at least, the seat of the police magistracy. From this point to Allotnuwera the district committee have voted a sum of 200*l.*, as the line being the direct one to Batticaloa is important.

The result of the survey now in progress of the lower Badulla road is most anxiously looked for by the planters of Onwah, and I am informed that a company is already prepared to submit a proposal for the construction of a tramway.

Next in importance to this road is the proposed grant-in-aid road from Haldamulle to Nawelle, and from that point to Wellewaye, as a Government road. His Excellency the Governor has seen the country through which this road will pass, and is, I believe, fully satisfied of its importance; though it will be made in part as a grant-in-aid, it is to all intents and purposes a public road as connecting Hambautotte and Saffragam. In my advocacy of this line I am glad to find that I am supported by the opinion of my predecessor, Mr. Braybrooke, whose experience of the country enables him to speak with authority.

The remarks of my assistant, Mr. Sharpe, on the subject of the Wariapola bridge and the road from Matale viâ Yattawatte to Kurnegalle, are worthy of consideration; but the question as to whether the road is to be made or not must be determined, I presume, with that of branch lines of railway.

Minor Roads.

Few new roads have been opened, but every attention has been paid to the upkeep of the existing ones, as also to the native wants in the construction of amblans or native rest houses.

No ordinance was ever framed, I believe, that has been so thoroughly appreciated as that No. 10 of 1861, and it appears uppermost in the minds of the Kandyans when speaking of the advantages of British rule in this Colony.

The question of raising the rate of commutation from 2*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* has lately been submitted to Government; and though I have had to recommend that the change should not take place before next year for certain reasons, which it is not necessary here to recapitulate, I see no reason to defer the change to any longer period. The tax is one which has abundantly rewarded the tax-payer, and it is so regarded by men of all classes, colour, and degree.

Mode of collecting the Revenue.

The grain revenue has, I might almost say, always been collected in this province upon commutation agreements.

In a pecuniary point of view there is a decided loss to Government; but I have regarded the collection of the revenue by the sale of the Paddy rents as so injurious to the welfare of the people, that I have always advocated a commutation when the people can be got to commute on fair, not excessive, terms.

I have lately with my assistants been engaged in carrying out a new registration, which I am happy to say is not far from completion, and will be productive of a considerable increase in the revenue under this head. I am sorry that I am not able to state the actual increase, but as the rates throughout have been doubled and the extent and produce increased (not unreasonably so I hope and believe), it will certainly be 120 per cent. above the previous year, and I shall indeed be glad when I can congratulate the Government on the successful completion of this most important work, carried out at rates and rules framed by my able predecessor.

Education.

The desire to improve himself is not, I think, inherent in a Kandyan, and the rise, progress, and fall of each succeeding village school is but a lamentable commentary on the fact.

Marriage Ordinance.

This is, I fear, a sad failure, and will lead eventually to a dreadful state of things. The ordinance is unpalatable to the Kandyan, and the nil returns show that it is almost a dead letter. I warn the people

of the consequences of not having their marriages registered under the ordinance, but I invariably receive the same answer, "Our old customs are more convenient, and we will protect our children and "secure their inheritance to them by deed," utterly regardless apparently of the fact that they may die before they have carried out their wise resolutions.

In the case of headmen registration is generally carried out by themselves and their families; and in the selection of candidates for the office of registrar every care has been taken to secure the services of men of the highest family and of known respectability.

Mr. Sharpe, assistant agent of Matale, speaks more hopefully; and views the result of the past year as indicative of a better state of things; while Mr. Hume of Badulla states that out of 495 marriages *ten* only have been registered by *twelve* registrars.

Public Buildings.

This is a subject with which the governor has made himself fully acquainted, and I confidently hope that in the consideration of the estimates for 1866 many urgent works may be provided for, for which hitherto funds have not been found available. The state of the public offices at Badulla and Nuwera Ellia call for immediate consideration; and amongst new works required for this town is a second court-house, for under the present arrangement the district court is virtually closed during the protracted session of the supreme courts twice a year.

There are many other works in the province that should be provided for, but which it is unnecessary here to particularize, as my yearly requisition is before Government. In the statement of expenditure will be found a very large item under the head hospitals, which has grown from 1,600*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* in 1860 to 3,375*l.* 18*s.* in 1864. A portion of this amount is recoverable, but I may mention that there is a very large balance outstanding, much of which I despair of being able to collect.

The question of recovering stamps in criminal proceedings in police courts has been mooted before and abandoned; but I venture to think that it would meet a stronger advocacy if again brought forward.

Returns showing the state of the population, revenue and expenditure, votes in aid of minor roads, persons who have paid under the road ordinance, marriages registered, vaccination returns, public health, and state of crops, &c. are appended.

(Signed) F. B. TEMPLER, Agent.

Government Agent's Office, Kandy, August 26, 1865.

HONG KONG.

No. 24.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER Administering the GOVERNMENT to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 62.)

SIR, Hong Kong, May 23, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for 1864, covered by a report from the Acting Colonial Secretary.

In this report I concur, and trust that Her Majesty's Government may see cause for much satisfaction in the progress that the Colony has continued to make during the past year, in spite of commercial depression and other difficulties.

I have little to add to Mr. Alexander's remarks, and shall only notice specially the completion of the water scheme, as originally contemplated; the introduction of gas to this part of the East on a large scale, and with perfect success; the settlement, as I hope, of the vexed Kowloon question; the circulation of the much wanted subsidiary currency; and the commencement of the Hong Kong mint.

I should remark on the subject of population, and the Acting Colonial Secretary's comment thereon, that while I quite agree with him that we can only here arrive at approximate results, the apparent decrease is to be accounted for otherwise than as he puts it.

Being in charge of my own office at the beginning of the year when the Registrar-General's returns were sent in, I had several communications with that officer on the subject of the decrease shown. His explanation was that his predecessors had allowed too large a margin under certain heads, and that he had made the census on a stricter and more defined system.

Judging from very intimate personal observation I should guess that the number of the people was neither greater nor less, and at any rate no conclusion can be drawn from the seeming numerical deficiency of the present census prejudicial to the Colony.

HONG KONG.

It is in fact, a matter of the highest congratulation to this Government that while trade at other ports on the China coast during the past year has been notoriously unsatisfactory that of the British Colony has had an even and successful flow.

In the last month of the year (December) a petition for certain festival privileges, presented to the Government by the (native) body of compradors and head business-men, contained these words:—

"Hong Kong is at this time a prosperous land, which is owing, indeed, to the power and virtues of Great Britain. Plenty abounds, and the people are thriving; taking pleasure in their business, while they live in security. All this arises from your happy protection."

I may be pardoned for saying that Sir Hercules Robinson has as much reason to congratulate himself on the results of 1864, as on those of any previous year of his administration.

Since the completion of the Blue Book I have received a memorandum on the native trade which I have caused to be included as giving much interesting information.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. T. MERCER.

Encl. 1 in No. 24.

Enclosure 1 in No. 24.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hong Kong, May 19, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the Blue Book for 1864, together with the following few remarks on its contents:—

Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue:

1864	$637,846 37
1863	576,375 30
	$61,471 07

The revenue in the year 1864 amounted to $637,846 37, being $61,471 07 in excess of that received in the previous year.

The increase is principally accounted for in the items of miscellaneous receipts, postages, and profit on coins, the last item being new. The augmentation in the amount of postage is satisfactory as some indication of commercial prosperity.

Expenditure:

1864	$763,307 93
1863	586,565 62
	$176,742 31

The expenditure in the year 1864 exceeded that of 1863 by $176,742 31, the greater part of which is to be attributed to the mint, although not so shown, as it was considered preferable for the present to include it under the head of Works and Buildings. The item land and houses purchased also shows an increase of more than $25,000; this is caused by the compensation made to squatters at Kowloon.

The satisfaction that may be felt at the increase of the revenue is not impaired by a glance at the items of decrease, which shows that the greater part of it consists of arrears of Crown rent, and police rates to be recovered; while the enlarged expenditure is of a nature not likely to be re-incurred; and the works on which it has been made may at no long interval of time be expected to repay the outlay.

Public Works.

Of the public works that were in progress, but not finished, during 1864, the principal were the gaol at Stone Cutter's island, the new central police-station, the mint, reclaiming land at Causeway Bay, and lamp posts and lamps for gas.

The works finished were Victoria gaol, the extension of the waterworks, and several roads, streets, bridges, and nullahs.

The department lost during the year the valuable assistance of Mr. Cleverly, who, after twenty years service in the Colony, has retired upon a pension.

Legislation.

1 of 1864. 2 of 1864. 5 of 1864. 10 of 1864. 12 of 1864. 13 of 1864.

Thirteen ordinances were passed in 1864; the most important were those relating to currency, the mint, bankruptcy, frauds by secret bills of sale, remedies on bills of exchange, and trade and commerce.

On the 9th of May an Ordinance, 7 of 1864, was passed by the Legislature, giving authority to two commissioners to compile a new edition of the Colonial Ordinances; and I may here state that the commissioners by the end of October had completed their work, so far as it was possible, pending the enactment of certain criminal ordinances, which are now being considered by a committee of the Legislative Council appointed at its last meeting.

Establishments.

The various departments, with some exceptions, have during the year been maintained at their full strength.

The exceptions are the Supreme Court, in which the Chief Justice was absent during the greater part of the year. The Summary Jurisdiction Court, the Judge of which acted as chief justice, the duties of the latter being performed by Mr. Whyte, one of the police magistrates, in addition to his own, and the Registrar General's department, where, on Mr. Turner's departure, Mr. Cecil Smith, one of the student interpreters, was appointed to do the duties.

As to their efficiency or otherwise I am not in a position to make any statement, having relinquished the post of Acting Colonial Secretary in February.

I can, however, testify to the success of the Hong Kong cadetship scheme, so far as the three gentlemen sent out are concerned; they deserve credit for the steady application they have given to the study of Chinese.

Population.

The census taken on the 31st December last, gives the population at 121,498 souls; this shows a decrease upon that of the year previous of 3,352; but I am satisfied, as I observed on a former occasion, that we can only obtain approximate results; but admitting the apparent decrease to be a fact, it is easily accounted for when we consider the vicinity of the mainland, and the facilities that exist for reaching it.

Population:	
1863 -	124,850
1864 -	121,498
	3,352

Sanitary.

A perusal of the Colonial surgeon's report affords evidence of the continued healthiness of the Colony, and it is satisfactory to learn that the police force, though more exposed, perhaps, than any other body of men in Hong Kong, "is distinguished by marked healthiness."

The gaols also appear to be very healthy, and, as far as Victoria Gaol is concerned, it is to be noted that many of the deaths occur in cases of prisoners who at the time of their committal are in a debilitated state from disease or starvation; these are chiefly men who are committed for short periods as rogues and vagabonds.

Education.

The Board of Education have sent in an interesting report on the state of the Government schools in the Colony. It is much to be regretted that the efforts made by the Government are not more cordially supported by the natives; but we must hope that the work done will by and by bear fruit.

It will be seen by the comparative statement attached to the report that although the number of scholars enrolled during 1864 was less than in 1862 and 1863, the average attendance was greater.

Shipping.

During the year 1864, 2,264 vessels arrived in this port, being an increase over those in 1863 of 442 in number, and in tonnage of 118,824 tons. Of these 2,264 vessels, 1,043 were British, and 1,221 were foreign; and the proportion of British to foreign ships in the increase of 442 vessels was—British, 227; foreign, 215.

	Vessels.	Tons.
1864 -	2,264	1,013,748
1863 -	1,822	894,924
	442	118,824

The number of vessels arriving were in—

	Vessels.	Tons.
1860 - - - -	1,534	875,199
1861 - - - -	1,259	658,196
1862 - - - -	1,390	688,829
1863 - - - -	1,822	894,924
1864 - - - -	2,264	1,013,748

	Vessels.
British -	1,043
Foreign -	1,221
	2,264

	Vessels.
British - -	227
Foreign -	215
	442

The year 1860, as it has often been stated, was an exceptional year, owing to the Chinese expedition attracting a large number of transports, &c.; but if we go back to the years 1857, 1858, 1859, in which the vessels and tonnage were respectively, 1,070, 1,007, and 1,158 vessels of 541,063, 716,476, and 626,536 tons, we have good reason to look upon the progressive increase as a proof that the trade of the Colony is flourishing.

Hong Kong being a free port, no return of imports and exports can be obtained.

Emigration.

The number of ships with emigrants cleared from this port during the year was 21. Of these, 10 were British, 5 American, 4 German, 1 Siamese, and 1 Sandwich Islands, carrying 6,607 passengers, as follows:—

	Men.	Boys.
San Francisco - - -	2,929	112
Bombay - - - -	2,370	—
Melbourne - - - -	851	8
Tahiti - - - - -	337	—
	6,487	120=6607

It will be observed that no ship for the British West Indies left Hong Kong during the year.

Gaols.

Victoria Gaol and the convict hulk at Stone Cutter's Island are in excellent order, and the superintendents deserve credit for the improvement they have made in the discipline and carrying on of the work of these establishments.

HONG KONG.

The superintendent of Victoria Gaol, in speaking of insane prisoners (question 20) states three were deported from the Colony.

The circumstances under which this occurred were that these lunatics were taken care of for a short time in order to ascertain if they had any friends in the Colony. Not having any, and being Chinese subjects, they were sent to the British Consul at Canton, to be placed in an asylum.

During the year a few European prisoners were sent to Stone Cutter's Island, where their labour has been found useful.

Comparing the criminal returns of the courts for the year with those of 1862 and 1863, it would appear that fewer criminals were brought to trial in 1864 than in either of the two previous years, though the Captain superintendent's return of felonies reported shows that 412 more crimes were brought to the notice of the police in 1864 than in 1863.

Felonies reported:
1864 - 1,677.
1863 - 1,265.
412.

I do not altogether blame the police, as I think it would be unjust to do so; no doubt they might do better, but it must be allowed that they have great difficulties to deal with; among others the number of Chinese that are daily brought down from Canton by the river steamers. These steamers charge 20 and 25 cents for the passage, a distance of over 90 miles; formerly the fares were as low as 10 cents, or 5*d.* sterling; the consequence was (and is) that the Colony was inundated by Chinese of the lowest and worst classes, who were starving in their own country, and whose sole resource on arrival here was robbery. It is stated that as many as 1,500 have come down in one steamer.

It is easy to conceive under such circumstances why crime is on the increase in the Colony; it is not so easy to devise a remedy, as the ordinary punishments of our law have no terror for the Chinese criminal.

In conclusion I must note the sale of a lot of ground at Kowloon to the Union Dock Company.

This company proposes to construct a large dock, having 21 feet water at low water.

This work will be a great boon to the shipping interest, as notwithstanding the docks at Aberdeen, numbers of vessels go to Whampoa, paying towage to tug owners, tonnage dues, &c. to the Chinese government, charges to which they would not be subject were there a dock in Victoria Harbour.

I have, &c.

His Excellency W. G. Mercer, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. H. ALEXANDER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Encl. 2 in No. 24.

Enclosure 2 in No. 24.

MEMORANDUM.

Although no return of imports and exports properly so called can be obtained, the Registrar-General at my request has supplied me with some notes of the *native* trade in the Colony which I think worthy of being brought to notice.

Opium (prepared).

The export from May 1st, 1864, to 1st April 1865, was to California, Tientsin, &c., 48,700 taels weight; a tael of prepared opium is worth about 60 cents.

Sold by retail in the Colony, boxes 167=6,617 balls, value about $20,000.

Sugar.

There is a large trade in this commodity. It is chiefly produced in the district of Tungkoon, which lies somewhat inland to the right of the Canton River.

The imports may be roughly estimated at 6 to 700,000 piculs, or upwards of 93,000,000 pounds.

The largest amount is exported from here to Shanghae and Tientsin.

Flour.

The Tungkoon district also produces flour (wheat) that finds its way to Hong Kong, about 4,000 piculs being imported annually. Wheat is grown in small quantities in many places and taken to the mills at Sheklung in the Tungkoon district.

Salt.

This chiefly comes from Tìn pák in the Fokien province, though a large quantity is gathered in the immediate vicinity of Hong Kong. The amount imported is about 60,000 piculs per annum.

Wood (Fire and Planking),

Is brought here from the Kwangsai province and from the north of Kwangtung. There is a trade of about $40,000 a year.

Earthenware,

Comes entirely from the potteries at Shekwán near Fa-tshan in the district of Nám-hoi (Canton is in this district), and the annual value is estimated at $2,000.

China Ware.

Japan and Kongsai supply the chinaware that is received here, and from this it is distributed to all the smaller ports and villages near.

Tiles,

To the extent of $10,000 worth are yearly received from Canton and Fa-tshan.

Live Stock—Pigs, Oxen, Poultry.

These are reared principally in the southern districts of the Canton province in Hoi-fung and Luk-fung. There is a large trade in them, and from this place they are sent to Canton, Fa-tshan, Macao, and Kongmun.

The annual value is put down at about $30,000 for oxen and pigs; for poultry somewhat less.

Oil.

The best oil and the largest quantity is brought from the little district of Tsung-fà, a day's journey north of the city of Canton. It is nearly all manufactured from the pea nut, which grows abundantly at Tsung-fà. There are many villages that also send oil in small quantities, but the quality is inferior. Amount imported may be roughly estimated at 10,000 piculs.

Hong Kong is the centre of trade in many kinds of goods, and most of the rich native hongs (firms) trade in such general wares. From Shensi they get amber; Soochow and its surrounding villages send native piece goods; Shan-tung, Szechuen, and Fokien send cotton and cotton goods, and the last make considerable exports of all kinds of medicine; Hankow, Shantung, and Chinchew provide the natives with edible delicacies in the shape of sharks' fins, beche de mer, &c., &c.

On the other hand the Canton province is supplied from here with sapanwood, sandalwood, rattans, ivory, and betel nut, received from Siam, Singapore, and Annam.

The neighbouring province of Kwongsai sends cassia, peppermint, and various kinds of dye, which are sent from here to all the ports in the Kwongtung province.

Vegetables for the use of the people here come chiefly from the Kowloong district, though large quantities are brought from Canton by the steamers running daily.

To the foregoing articles many others might be added, such as building materials; bricks, timber, granite, &c., but of these I have at present no data.

These remarks are not made to prove the value, for that is almost impossible, but rather to show the nature of the trade carried on by the Chinese in this Colony.

I have, &c.

His Excellency W. G. Mercer, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. H. ALEXANDER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

May 27, 1865.

LABUAN.

No. 25.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor CALLAGHAN to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 19.)

SIR, Labuan, July 10, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Labuan for the year 1864.

2. The local revenue for 1864 amounted to 2,203*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*, and exceeded that of the preceding year by 117*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*

The expenditure, exclusive of the cost of the troops, was 7,689*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.*

3. The progress made in the public works may be regarded as satisfactory. The road from Victoria to Coal Point was completed towards the end of the year, and it has been found to be a great public convenience.

The drainage of the swamp near the town was continued by the convicts, and considering the arduous character of the work a good deal of progress was made in it.

The only new works commenced during the year were the additional buildings for the accommodation of the troops, which are being proceeded with, and will, I hope, be completed in a few months.

4. The trade still continues to be very small, although in 1864 there was some increase over the preceding year.

The imports amounted to 84,049*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, being an increase of 12,684*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* on those of 1863.

The exports, exclusive of those to the coast of Borneo and Sooloo, in native boats, of which no reliable returns can be obtained, amounted to 48,202*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, being an increase of 2,588*l.* 5*s.* on the exports returned for 1863.

5. The works at the Labuan coal-mines were carried on steadily throughout the year.

The pit was sunk to the big vein at a depth of about 270 feet.

The quantity of coal shipped in 1864 amounted to 10,308 tons, being a considerable increase on the preceding year.

LABUAN.

Towards the close of the year there was some improvement in the supply of labour at the mines. However, the labour question still continues to be in a very unsatisfactory state.

6. There was considerably less sickness in 1864 than in preceding years. It was unusually dry.

7. I am happy to say that I received no intelligence of the commission of any acts of piracy during the year in the neighbourhood of Labuan, or along the north-west coast of Borneo.

This, I have no doubt, is to be attributed to the presence of a gun-boat on the station.

8. If this protection be continued there is every reason to hope for a decided improvement in the commerce of Labuan, as soon as the trading population of the coast begin to realize that they can make their voyages in security.

However, as I stated in a former despatch on the subject, I do not look for any considerable commerce here until some radical change takes place in the condition of that part of Borneo with which the Colony has intercourse.

Of this, I confess I do not see any prospect.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. F. CALLAGHAN,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS.

GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 26.

No. 26.

EXTRACT from a DESPATCH from General SIR W. CODRINGTON to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR, dated March 4, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1864, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Colonial Secretary.

The actual revenue received in the Colony for the year was 29,826*l.*, and the current expenditure for ordinary works and administration was 29,105*l.* sterling.

The actual expenditure was 34,495*l.* sterling, which includes a sum of 4,990*l.* for new works, viz., police office and convent, and 400*l.* special grant to the Roman Catholic church, making a total of 5,390*l.* from the surplus revenue for extraordinary works.

The current excess of revenue over expenditure for all ordinary works and administration being 736*l.*, I consider the state of the revenue to be satisfactory. In pages 26 and 27 are seen the increase and decrease on various sources of revenue from the preceding year; the principal items that show a decrease are, the duties on spirits, 251*l.*, and auction fees, 351*l.*

The chief increase has been on house and ground rents, 307*l.*, and on the rates and duties of the port department, 285*l.*

Population and Mortality.

The resident population, according to a census taken in June 1860, amounts to 15,462, this is exclusive of military, convicts, and aliens on temporary permits, varying from three days to a year. The number of the latter varies, but in December last was 995.

The number of births among the resident population was 614; deaths, 507.

Under the head of Miscellaneous returns are inserted the number of cases heard and disposed of in the various courts of law at Gibraltar.

The schools are nine in number, in which are educated 1,108 boys, and 934 girls; besides these there are seven regimental schools, in which are instructed 229 boys and 201 girls.

MALTA.

MALTA.

No. 27.

No. 27.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor SIR HENRY STORKS, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 62.)

SIR, Palace, Valletta, May 31, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Malta for the year 1864, and to subjoin a statement in regard to the revenue and expenditure of these Islands during that year, which has been furnished by the Auditor General.

2. The gross revenue of Malta during the five years immediately preceding 1864 was—

	£	
1859 - -	147,385	
1860 - -	145,944	
1861 - -	144,344	Average, say £149,862.
1862 - -	153,806	
1863 - -	157,831	

3. The gross revenue of 1864 was 169,065*l.* 0*s.* 2¼*d.*, being in round numbers 19,203*l.* above the average of the five preceding years, and 11,234*l.* more than the gross revenue of 1863.

4. The increase over the revenue of 1863 is chiefly in imports and tonnage dues.

5. The increase in imports is spread over 13 out of the 17 dutiable articles. A portion of this increase would appear to be consequent partly on the extended cultivation of cotton, and partly on the influx of a large number of foreigners during the disturbances which took place in the regency of Tunis.

6. The increase of tonnage dues is on sailing vessels, and it is satisfactory to observe that the trade with the neighbouring states appears to be reassuming its former importance.

7. The receipts of the two principal branches of revenue as compared with 1863, are—

Rents of Property.

——	1863.	1864.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Lands and quit rents	13,178 5 9½	13,516 15 11
Houses	22,972 3 1	22,919 13 4¾
	36,150 8 10½	36,436 9 3¾
	£ s. d.	
Increase on lands	338 10 1½	
Decrease on houses	52 9 8¼	
Increase	286 0 5¼	

Customs Duties and Dues.

——	1863.	1864.	Increase.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Imports	97,243 15 4	104,907 13 2	7,663 17 10
Tonnage	5,114 3 0	6,624 16 0	1,510 13 0
Store rent	1,851 3 3	1,971 15 6	120 12 3
	104,209 1 7	113,504 4 8	9,295 3 1

giving an aggregate increase of 9,581*l.* 3*s.* 6¼*d.*

The provision made for the year was—

——	Establishments.	Exclusive.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General Estimate	67,036 16 7	81,205 19 5	148,242 16 0
Supplementary Ordinance not yet approved	319 5 11	26,354 3 1	26,673 9 0
	67,356 2 6	107,560 2 6	174,916 5 0
Reserved balances of "Special Services"			57 2 11
			174,973 7 11

8. The gross expenditure in 1864 was—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Local charges	65,926 14 11	92,045 0 11	
Agents general	330 17 2	4,615 4 0	
	66,257 12 1	96,660 4 11	
Total		162,917 17 0	

being 6,147*l.* 3*s.* 2¼*d.* within the gross revenue of the year.

MALTA.

The exceptional works of magnitude which were executed in the year were—

	£	s.	d.
Continuation of Opera House - - - -	8,714	4	6
„ Tal Horo Cemetery - - -	2,899	19	4
„ Elena tank - - - -	817	18	5
„ Powder magazine - - - -	159	18	11
Repair of Pilar church - - - -	618	10	0
Ship-building slip - - - - -	1,800	0	0
	15,010	11	2
To which may be added the instalment on account of the new harbour - - - - -	11,227	16	8
	26,238	7	10

9. The actual state of the finances of Malta at the close of 1864 may be seen from the following statement:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Credit balance 21st December 1863 - - -				31,092	15	9
Add revenue of 1864:—						
Local - - - -	167,595	14	5¼			
Crown agents - - -	1,469	5	9			
				169,065	0	2¼
				200,157	15	11¼
Deduct expenditure 1864:—						
Local - - - -	157,971	15	10			
Crown agents - - -	4,946	1	2			
				162,917	17	0
Credit balance, 31st December 1864 - - -				37,239	18	11¼

10. Deducting from this total the sum of 7,678*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* invested in consols for a special service, the credit balance available for future use (whether for completion of services already undertaken, or for new services, or to make good any possible deficiency in the revenue of 1865 below the sum appropriated to expenditure in the estimates of the year), would be in round numbers 29,561*l.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. K. STORKS, Lieut.-General,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 28.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 28.

[Not received.]

FALKLANDS.

No. 29.

FALKLANDS.

No. 29.

COPY of a DESPATCH from GOVERNOR MACKENZIE to the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 18.)

Government House, Falkland Islands,
June 18, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1864, accompanied by the usual returns of the state of repair of Government House, &c.

2. The only important differences from the statistical tables of last year (1863) are found in the returns of Revenue and Expenditure. The decrease of 54*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* in

the revenue is attributable mainly to the loss consequent on the judgment given by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in respect of the rights of lessees of Crown lands to capture and kill the wild cattle on the lands held by them. Previously to this decision certain royalties were paid to the Government for permissive licences to catch or destroy these cattle.

The marked increase in the expenditure is caused by the change made in the Colonial garrison. In the year 1863 the company of soldiers stationed here were paid and maintained at the expense of the War Office. In January 1864 a detachment of Royal Marines was substituted for the former garrison, and in pursuance of arrangements made with the Board of Admiralty by the Colonial Department, with the concurrence of Her Majesty's Treasury, the entire expense of provisioning the men falls on this Government, besides the sanctioned allowance of double pay from Colonial funds.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P. (Signed) J. G. MACKENZIE,
Governor.

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